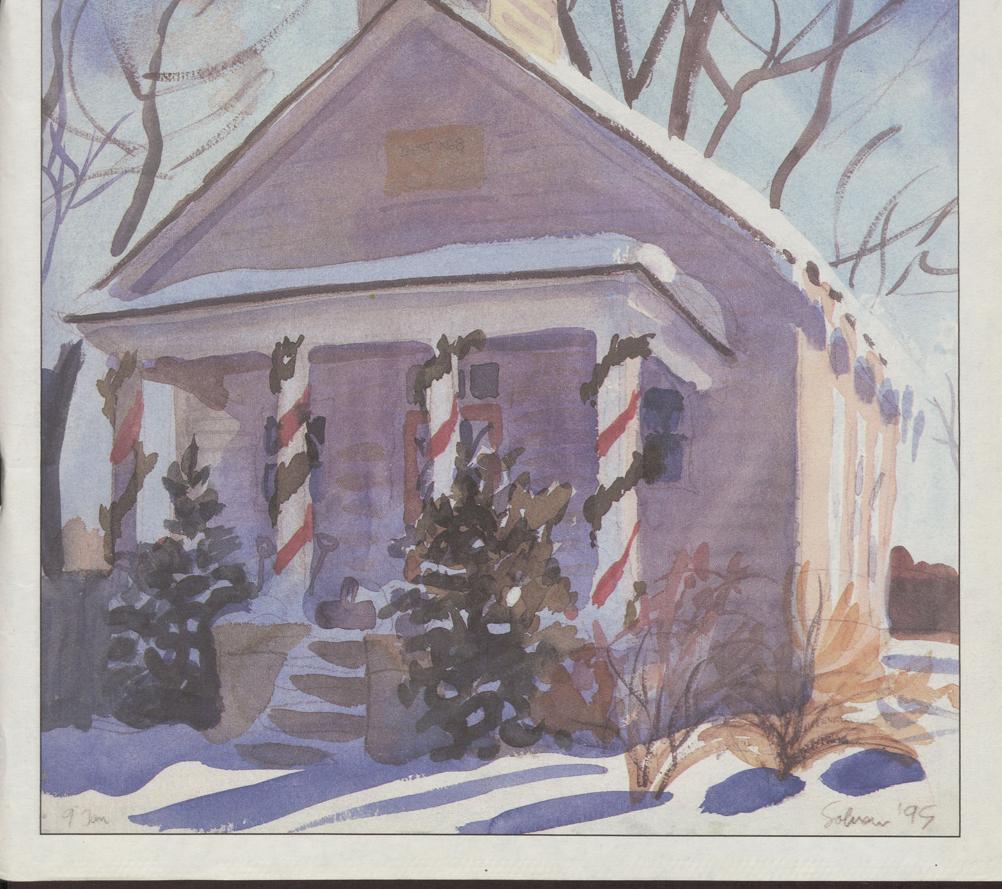
Ann Arbor Observer

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A wicker basket of course! It is filled with representative Michigan food products: American Spoon Salad Dazzler, Country Chile Con Queso Dip Mix, LeeLanau Coffee, Maple Syrup, Herbal Treasure Rice-Spices-Herbs, Rocky Top Preserves and Fruit Butter, and Benjamin Twigg's Chocolate Covered Red Tart Cherries. \$49.95

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A baguette basket filled with these healthy (and tasty) goodies: American Spoon Fruit, Michaelene's Granola (wheat-free), Michigan Honey Bear, MacKinlay Fruit Tea, and Benjamin Twigg's Dried Cherries. \$32.99

Morning in Michigan

There is nothing like waking up and enjoying a sumptuous breakfast which includes Coffee by Coffee Express Company, Maple Syrup, Frankenmuth Pancake Mix, Michaelene's Granola, and Honey Berry Raspberry Spread. \$39.99

Michigan Favorites

A lovely wicker basket filled with a taste of Michigan's best: Benjamin Twigg's Dried Cherries, Jiffy Muffin Mix, Mackinaw Fudge, Kellogg's Cereal, Maple Syrup, Vernor's Ginger Soda, Sanders Dessert Topping, and American Gourmet Pretzels. \$37.50

A Taste of Michigan

Linda Brinker, owner of Occasionally Gift Shop, put together this great sampling: Maple Syrup, Carp River Preserve, Mackinaw Fudge, LeeLanau Coffee, Honey Sticks, and Michigan Mints. \$29.95

Michigan Munchies

Delightful tasty treats overflowing the basket brim: Sander's Nibbler Chocolates, Mackinaw Fudge, Pizzelle Wafer Cookies, Mackinaw Taffy, Cinnamon Buddeez Nuts, Germack Sweet and Nutty Mix, American Gourmet Pretzels, Candy Sticks, and Michigan Mints. \$64.99

Lower Peninsula

A souvenir wicker basket in the shape of Michigan's Lower Peninsula filled with: Sander's Dessert Topping, American Spoon Fruit, Honey Sticks, LeeLanau Coffee, Bag of Michigan Mints, and Mucky Duck Mustard. \$59.95

Michigan Decadence

An elegant wicker basket with an over handle to hold these tantalizing goodies: a Large Bottle of St. Julian's Sparkling Juice, Michigan Pate, Mackinac Fort Fudge, American Gourmet Pretzels, Hanover Michigan Mints, Chocolate Covered Cherries, Sanders Fudge Topping, a Cookie Cutter in the Shape of Michigan filled with Chocolate & Cherries, LeeLanau Flavored Coffee, and Pizzelle Cookies. \$64.99

Michigan Cherries Jubilee

Amy's Chunky Cherry Chutney, Benjamin Twigg's Dried Cherries, Brownwood Acres Famous Cherry Butter, Michigan-Shaped Cookie Cutter filled with Chocolate & Cherries, Luscious Cherry Vanilla Mackinac Fudge, LeeLanau Chocolate Cherry Festival Coffee, and Carp River Trading Company Tart Cherry Mustard, \$54.99

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This basket is filled with a beautiful display of fresh Apples, Oranges, Grapefruit, Pears, Peaches Nectarines, Bananas, St. Julian's Sparkling Juice, Carrs Crackers, Cheese Bitts, and Rocky Top Farms Fruit Preserves and Butter. \$49.95

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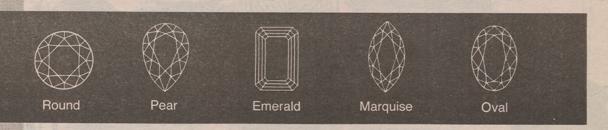
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Ann Arbor Observer

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The Underground Railroad in Ann Arbor Grace Shackman In the years before the Civil War, a handful of local abolitionists helped fugitive slaves make their way to freedom in Canada.



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December 1998

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LAND OF A THOUSAND FLAVORS

sandwiches soothe holiday stress

Studies show that one of the easiest ways known to humankind to reduce holiday stress is to take the night off from cooking and stop down to the Deli for sandwiches. A simple phone call to the Deli to place an order ahead of time can reduce stress levels even more.

the zingerman's news hits 150

The 150th issue of The Zingerman's News, called "the finest free food ink around" by Lois Kane and Ricky Agranoff in their new book, Ann Arbor Fresh, is out now. It is free at all Zingerman's outlets. Anyone who has all 150 issues can bring or send them to Zingerman's mistress of the presses, Ms. Lynn Fiorentino, to receive a free gift.

inside Zingerman's

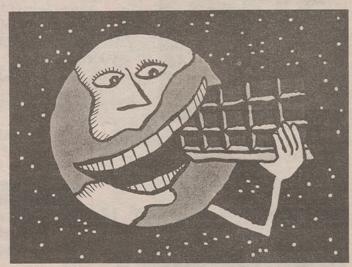
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chocolate Mania Hits Zingerman

World-Class Chocolates from All Over the World Appear in Ann Arbor

Chocolate lovers all over Amy Stringer, a self-protown are heading down to the corner of Detroit and Kingsley Streets wide-ranging new selection of chocolates at Zingerman's. Chocolates from sources all over the globe including France, Venezuela, Italy, San Francisco, and the Pacific Northwest, are making their way (quickly) into the mouths of chocolatestarved consumers.

claimed chocolate fanatic recently returned from London, has been quick to take advantage of the to remind anyone who will listen that, "Chocolate is your friend." A particular hit has been the special Cuba chocolate cigars, made by the Cussino family who've been crafting these and other innovative chocolate specialties in the Piedmont for over eighty



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Zingerman's Bakehouse Stollen

Becoming an Ann Arbor tradition, long-time locals have already been asking for when this traditional German holiday cake would be arriving. The Zingerman's News is happy to report that the time has arrived: stollen season is officially upon us.

One of the all-time best treats from the Bakehouse, Zingerman's stollen is made with lots of sweet butter,

Bacardi rum, lemons, oranges, Michigan dried cherries, citron, currants, almonds, sultanas, real vanilla and more. Slice up a Bakehouse stollen and serve after dinner with coffee or tea. They say these keep for months, but we've never been able to keep any on hand long enough to find out.

Send a stollen to a food loving friend-call Zingerman's Mail Order at 888.636.8162.

Top Michigan Writer Gives Deli Big Thumbs Up!

The Ann Arbor News reported last month that "Acclaimed author Jim Harrison . . . (has) no particular love of academia. Still, he find things to like in Ann Arbor. 'I love Zingerman's," says the world-renowned writer. Harrison's new novel, The Road Home has been found to be particularly enjoyable when accompanied by a dark-crusted loaf of Farm Bread and a wedge of English Farmhouse Cheddar matured in the Zingerman's aging rooms.



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Incredible Edibles Discovered Emanating from Ann Arbor

IOWA CITY - After weeks of work, investigators here have discovered that the influx of incredibly flavorful food pouring in to this and other cities around the country, is emanating from Ann Arbor, home of the University of Michigan and Zingerman's. With increasing regularity, food from Zingerman's has been covering holiday tables here in the heartland. Additionally traditional taste treats from Zingerman's have been found to be prominently placed on holiday gift lists nationwide. "While computers and new cars continue to be popular, full-flavored food finds from Zingerman's is rapidly gaining popularity" said head researcher, Hugh Linary. Gift experts are predicting that most of the best gift givers this year are using food to win friends, influence people and please relatives all over America.

For more on how great food can be made into a great gift, call Zingerman's Mail Order, toll-free, at 888.636.8162.

Cranberry Pecan Bread Carried Over

By popular demand, Zingerman's Bakehouse has agreed to continue to offer its seasonal Cranberry Pecan bread through the month of December. Enthusiastic munchers can pick up a loaf at all Zingerman's locations.

zingerman's will be closed on christmas. have a happy holiday!

ANNARBOR

Unbeatable?

Ingrid Sheldon was reelected by the narrowest margin-a mere 704 out of 34,592 votes-of her four mayoral triumphs. Yet her appeal to local voters doesn't actually appear to be slipping.

Indeed, Sheldon emerged from the November election looking more unbeatable than ever. Chris Kolb, the popular and widely respected Fifth Ward councilman, is probably as strong a candidate as Democrats are ever going to be able to put forth. And while Kolb cut Sheldon's margin by almost two-thirds compared with their previous matchup in 1996, a closer look at the results indicates that his gains reflect the strengthening of his own appeal-not any weakening in Sheldon's.



Chris Kolb gave Ingrid Sheldon her toughest race yet, but fell just short as the mayor claimed her fourth term.

Adjusted for the drop-off in turnout from the 1996 presidential election, Kolb's improved percentage translates into 569 more votes in 1998. Nearly two-thirds of that gain-356 votes-came in the Fifth Ward, his home turf. Kolb picked up 105 votes in the Third Ward but only sixteen in the First, the most heavily Democratic ward in the city. In the two Republican wards, the Second and Fourth, he gained fifty-seven and thirty-five votes, respectively.

If he and Sheldon choose to run again in 2000, and Kolb can make as much headway citywide as he did this year in his home base, he could eke out a narrow victory. But by that point, Kolb would have invested more than six years on council-and three

mayoral campaigns-in the seemingly easy task of defeating a Republican incumbent in a heavily Democratic city.

Kolb's difficulties underscore one of the crucial factors that make Sheldon not just unbeatable but, for local

> Republicans, perhaps irreplaceable as well. The core of Sheldon's appeal is a brand of liberal Republicanism that is upbeat, activist, and adventurous-but frugal. In the 1970s and 1980s, similar candidates were the bulwark of GOP council majorities, but in the post-Reagan, post-Gingrich era, they have virtually disappeared from the local political landscape.

Sheldon's other great strength is, if anything, even harder to replicate: after a lifetime in community service and politics, she may know more people on a personal level than anyone else in town. The acquaintance factor has become more important since the city switched to November elections five years ago. Mayoral elections are now at the bottom of a long ballot.

and candidates are finding it much harder in a two-month campaign to make an impression on the electorate—the vast majority of whom don't even bother to vote in off-year city elections. Indeed, the size of Kolb's gain in the Fifth Ward suggests that his work on council during the past two years had more to do with his improved showing than his aggressive, high-profile

Aside from county administrative officers like sheriff and clerk, Sheldon is the only Republican candidate to carry the city this decade. The good news for the GOP is that she hasn't yet lost her appetite for the job. The bad news is that they have no one else remotely like her.

Aftermath

Some backers of Proposal 1 are considering launching a new land-preservation drive. But after the ballot issue's resounding defeat, county officials are wary.

Barry Lonik of the Potawatomi Land Trust, who worked to get Proposal 1 on the ballot, says it's "very possible" that supporters will come forward with another tax-based plan. "If you want to preserve land, it ain't easy to do," he says. "Only a handful of people are in a position to donate land and [put their land in a] conservation easement. We need to lay some cash on the line."

"You have to be somewhat skeptical about another millage," says County Administrator Bob Guenzel. "I'm not sure taxpayers would be in favor of that." Guenzel says he's interested in acting on the points Proposal 1's supporters and opponents agreed on-mostly the need for better-coordinated long-range planning and additional county support for township planners.

Washtenaw Citizens for Responsible Growth, which campaigned against Pro-

posal 1 with a slogan that "there's a better way" to deal with development issues, says it plans to study ways of reforming land use policy without raising taxes. WCRG campaign manager Jeff Muir says that the group hopes to form a public-private partnership to look at the issue, and that the group will hold monthly meetings and frequent symposia on land use. Muir says WCRG hopes to work with the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau, which supported Proposal 1, to find a way to make farming in the county more profitable.

"The coalition is very much in favor of trying to do more planning in the community, more coordination between the townships and the county," adds WCRG member Maureen Sloan, executive officer of the Washtenaw County Home

Builders Association. Sloan says WCRG wants to work toward better planning "so we preserve more of the green space and more of the natural features," as well as "trying to work more with cities so we develop in-fill areas in cities to accommodate some of that growth."

Guenzel hopes a group he formed, the "sustainability initiative," can help the county come to a consensus about the best ways to handle growth. Chairing the initiative's steering committee is Woody Holman, president of the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce, who says the chamber wants to work with the county to encourage a broad community discussion about growth issues. Holman and Muir also talk about setting up pilot programs involving townships and builders to create concrete examples of developments built with minimal impact to the environment.

Voters rejected Proposal 1 by 57.5 to 42.5 percent. The proposal won bare majorities in the city of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Township, and lost everywhere else-even as a statewide environmental cleanup bond proposal won 66.5 percent of the vote in the county. Though pitched as a way to preserve farming, Proposal 1 was soundly rejected in the county's deepest farm belt. It won just 36 percent of the vote in Freedom Township, 32 percent in Bridgewater Township, and a mere 27 percent in Saline Township.

Miller Theater

Tally Hall is among the sites being considered for the U-M's planned Arthur Miller Theater.

That's the word from Robert Kasdin, the U-M's chief financial officer, who says



Tally Hall in its all-too-brief heyday.

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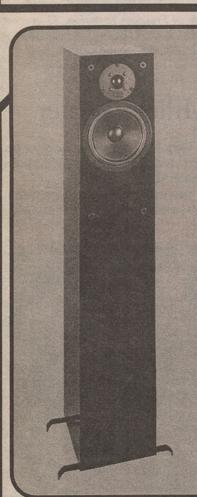
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the school is "looking at sites, on and off campus, and that's one of them." Kasdin wouldn't identify the other possibilities, or say whether the 60,000-square-foot former corporate office for the Borders Group on Liberty Street is the first choice.

The effort to establish a Miller theater is one of several U-M projects to honor the eighty-three-year-old Miller, a 1938 graduate whose Crucible and Death of a Salesman are among the nation's greatest plays. "The Stages of Arthur Miller" is thought to be the first U-M course devoted to a U-M graduate, and he's the subject of a recent special issue of the Michigan Quarterly Review. But the theater seems to be an especially high priority—the high-powered committee planning it includes U-M president Lee Bollinger and vice provost for the arts Paul Boylan. Kasdin says that the university is "seriously investigating options" and "moving forward identifying and trying to secure the best location." Anne Knott, a special counselor to Bollinger, says the committee's primary task is to decide on the theater's programming. But she concedes that the job isn't going to be easy without knowing the facility.

Whether that's Tally Hall is unclear. Borders vice-president Charles Hueston says Borders isn't currently negotiating with anyone over Tally Hall, but he declines to answer direct questions about whether the U-M has expressed an interest in it as a theater site. The university has already leased other former Borders office space across Liberty Street in the old Jacobson's store.

Karl Pohrt, president of the State Street Area Association, says the group "would love to have it [the Miller theater] in our neighborhood." Pointing out that the Michigan Theater is just up the street, U-M film expert Frank Beaver sees potential synergies that could enhance the area's growing entertainment district.

If the theater comes to pass, it could finally bring a successful identity to the building. Tally Hall opened in 1986 as a food court and shopping center and failed almost immediately. Revamped, and renamed Liberty Square, it reopened and languished again. Borders moved its corporate offices to the site in 1995, but departed this year for new headquarters on the outskirts of town, again leaving the building almost empty.

Swindle

The FBI arrested Maurice Adams in mid-October, more than a year after an Observer story tied him to an alleged multimillion dollar embezzlement at Care Choices HMO.

"The Great HMO Swindle" (September 1997) detailed how Adams, in his position as middleman between certain Care Choices business customers and the HMO, withdrew at least \$2.5 million from a bank account containing Care Choices premiums. The former EMU basketball player apparently spent much of the money on his own unsuccessful clubs and restaurants

in Detroit. When the shortage came to light last year, Care Choices and its parent, Mercy Health Plans, filed a civil suit. They won more than \$15 million in damages and penalties in a default judgment.

Adams called the dispute a "misunderstanding" and tried, without success, to overturn the judgment. Now he's scheduled to appear in court December 3 to face federal mail fraud charges. Adams's lawyer, Otis Culpepper, did not return calls from the Observer.

Carol Peart, Mercy Health Plans' controller between 1987 and 1996, was apparently the only staff member who dealt with Adams's company, Time Management Group, according to HMO court filings. Peart described Adams as her husband in her personnel records, and Adams (who was married to someone else) admitted to the Observer last year that he had a relationship with Peart. He denied, however, that she arranged for him to handle the HMO's premiums. No charges have been filed against Peart, who also did not return phone calls.

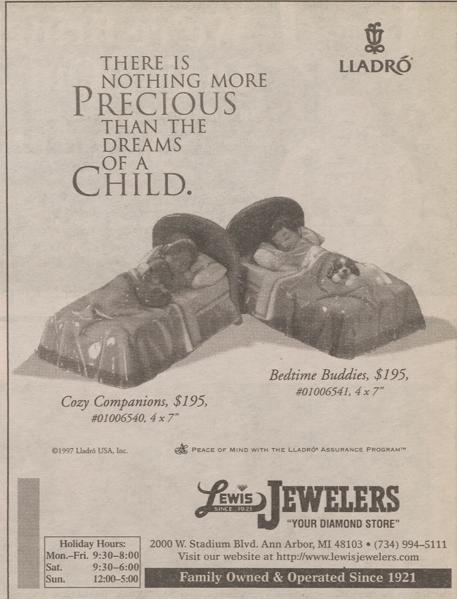
Mercy Health Plans has collected more than \$1.6 million in insurance payments, according to spokeswoman Karen Martin: "They were collected under the crime policy of our insurance policy." However, insurance did not cover another \$827,000 in

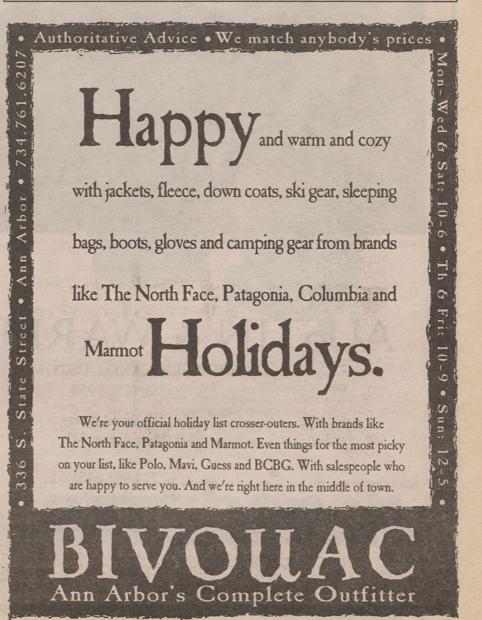


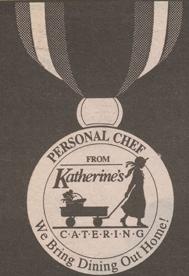
Maurice Adams as a student at EMU.

losses—interest that Time Management collected on Mercy's money between 1992 and 1997.

Mercy Health Plans is owned by the Catholic Religious Sisters of Mercy, and observes the church's strictures against abortion and contraception. In late 1987, Adams began handling insurance premiums from Care Choices customers, mainly the Big Three automakers, who insisted on coverage for those services. Adams was to forward some of the premiums to another insurance company that provided the abortion and family planning coverage, while passing the rest along to Care Choices. That system apparently remains in place. "When coverage for birth control is required by law, which is typically the case for Medicare, or by an employer or purchaser, Mercy Health Plans does have an arrange-







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Transmitting AIDS

INSIDE ANN ARBOR continued

ready been discarded.

national company.

ment with another insurance company to provide that coverage," says Martin.

records for the period 1987-1992 had al-

Towing Takeover

The city's two largest towing con-

tractors have been bought by the same

The full extent of Adams's misappropriation may never be known. By the time the shortage was discovered last year, account

A comment by one public health worker in our November feature "Living with HIV" triggered a response from another. Concerned about bisexual transmission of the disease-which she suspects to be an underreported cause of infections in women-Vicki Nighswander of the Washtenaw County Health Department complained that if men tell health care workers that they contracted AIDS from another man, their cases are tagged as homosexual transmission. Paraphrasing Nighswander, we wrote that usually "nobody goes on to ask those men if they have sex with women, too; there isn't even a category for it on state reporting forms."

That prompted a letter from Eve Mokotoff, chief of HIV/AIDS epidemiology for the Michigan Department of Community Health. "This information has always been collected on the [state] reporting forms," wrote Mokotoff. "The form asks for the sex of the patient, if the patient has had sex with males and if the patient has had sex with females." Men who answer both affirmatively, she added, are classified as "homosexual transmission" cases "because (1) there are many more HIV infected men than women and (2) transmission between men is much more efficient than transmission from women to men."

Both Nighswander and Mokotoff are correct. The fault lay in our summary, which should have clarified that Nighswander's concern was not with how an infection was acquired, but with how it may be passed on-specifically, identifying cases in which men who contracted AIDS through homosexual activity are at risk of passing it on to women by heterosexual contact. In that area, Mokotoff acknowledges room for improvement: "It is also true that a 'side effect' of this [reporting] approach is that these men may not be counseled about being able to pass the infection on to either men or women, quite efficiently."



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RoadOne, a multistate towing conglomerate, bought Sakstrup's Towing in July, after buying Brewer's last year. The largest of the four companies that tow cars for the city, Sakstrup's and Brewer's handle, between them, about two-thirds of the city's impound and accident tows.

A division of Miller Industries, the country's largest maker of tow trucks, RoadOne has been trading its own stock for control of local towing companies. It's an attractive offer for many small firms, whose equity can otherwise be hard to sell.



"We have swapped ownership of our company," says Dennis Brewer. "We have taken publicly traded stock for the value of our business.'

Brewer calls the transaction "a merger," and stresses that he's still running his own show. "I have all the authority I ever had," he says.

"We're absolutely no different than we were in June," concurs Richard Sakstrup. "I'm still the president of the corporation."

The city's towing business is highly political, and how RoadOne will be received on City Council remains to be seen. But the issue isn't likely to come up soon. Because the towing contractors have been unable to agree among themselves about how to divide the business, they're still working under a contract that was originally set to expire in 1993 (see "Towed Away," August 1997).

Another city contractor, Triangle Towing, also was approached by RoadOne, but owner Scott Snuverink says he decided not to sell. Clarence Heidenescher of Glen-Ann, the fourth firm presently contracted by the city, says that RoadOne has not made him a buyout offer, but that he'd seriously consider selling if asked.

RoadOne will have to sweeten its stock offers to conclude any future deals. So far this year, according to a recent Wall Street

Brian Ellerbe's only comfort may be that no one expected much this year.

Journal article, Miller Industries shares have plunged more than 50 percent on the New York Stock Exchange. Miller is blaming last year's mild winter for lower-thanexpected profits, but says it's hired Goldman Sachs to evaluate steps it can take to improve its stock price-including a possible sale of the company.

Structure Cleanup

A new parking-management contract will put National Garages on the spot.

The city's major parking lots and garages are managed by National under contract with the Downtown Development Authority. But DDA chairman Ed Shaffran is strongly critical of the firm's performance, saying he's all too often found the garages filthy, with dirty elevators and stairwells that stink of urine.

"We're a service industry, and the public is entitled to good service and a clean parking structure," says Shaffran, who calls National's performance "awful." Shaffran opposed extending the firm's management contract, which expires at the end of the year. But by a ten-to-one vote, the DDA decided in November to extend National's contract through the year 2000.

Other DDA members say they aren't letting the company off the hook. They promise that the new contract will have demanding performance standards for cleanliness and management-something they say was lacking in previous agreements-and a one-year termination clause if they're not met.

Ironically, the vote came only minutes before board members learned National had allowed the Borders Group to run up a \$30,000 unpaid balance for validation parking downtown. DDA staff weren't told about the bill until the morning of the November 12 board meeting, and they didn't tell board members until after the vote to rehire National. The reason for the delay is unclear.

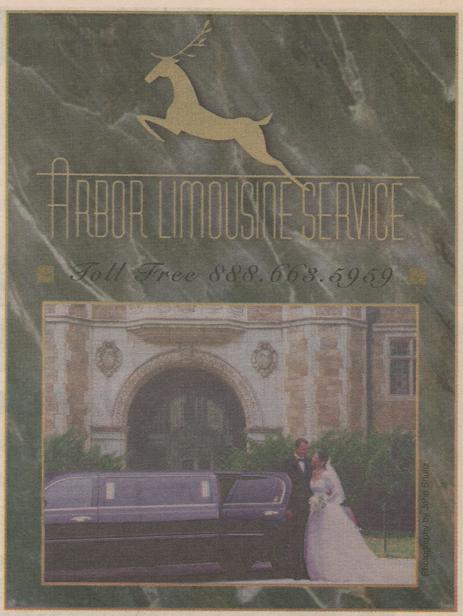
Borders vice-president Jim Brigham says that according to store officials, Borders received no bills from National from April to September. National claims otherwise, say Brigham and DDA officials. Borders paid the \$30,000 bill a few days after the shortfall came to light.

Even though all of Shaffran's board colleagues voted to rehire National, his ire at the company is likely to mean rockier relations between the company and the DDA. Next, Shaffran says, he'll move to have National's books audited.

Overachievers?

Even before the U-M men's basketball team lost its first two games, experts were predicting that this year's season would be poor to dismal.

With NBA draftee Robert "Tractor" Traylor and standout seniors Maceo Baston and Jerod Ward replaced by unheralded and inexperienced Josh Asselin, Peter Vignier, and Chris Young, new head coach Brian Ellerbe has a chance to be accused





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of something predecessor Steve Fisher never was—overachieving. With so little talent and experience down low, few pundits expected much from the Wolverines, who will have to rely on a guard-oriented offense for the first time since the Fab Five era began.

But maybe this is the best way for Ellerbe to break in—with so little expected, it will be hard to disappoint. He has been exuding supreme optimism about this year (and never mind next year, for which he's already nailed down a quartet of highly ranked recruits), saying his two returning guards, seniors Robbie Reid and Louis Bullock, form one of the best backcourts in the country. And in another down year in the Big Ten, which has amazingly few good big men, Michigan still can't be considered a small team.

In fact, following rigorous off-season conditioning programs, all the new starters appear bulkier, but not slower. The 6'11" Vignier is obviously older and stronger, yet his hands seem softer. The 6'9" Young seems poised for a freshman, and very active. And the 6'11" Asselin, who showed some promise last year in a very limited role, will be given every opportunity to contribute—and so far he seems surprisingly athletic and plenty capable.

Versatile sophomore Brandon Smith and freshman Leon Jones give Ellerbe some maneuverability in the rotation of his top seven players. And Reid and Bullock have assumed their leadership roles with vigor. Reid seems smarter and calmer, and Bullock's shot—which he appears more capable of creating on his own—looks sweeter than ever. In the U-M's season-opening loss to Florida International University, Reid and Bullock combined to score three-quarters of the Wolverines' points.

Ellerbe's slight but perpetual grin suggests he's hardly feeling pressure yet. But as the U-M's early losses to FIU and Ball State showed, optimism and enthusiasm do not readily substitute for experience.

Call for Art

A gathering at a Main Street cafe generated an unexpected gift to a group that wants to bring more public art downtown.

"We were having a meeting in Espresso Royale," recalls Jan Onder, co-owner of Generations and a member of the Downtown Public Art Committee (DPAC). "A couple came over and said, 'We couldn't help overhearing—we own an apartment across the street, and we'd like to donate \$20,000 for art!"

Brent and Sarah Gephart's gift for art on Main Street will become DPAC's second project. The first—the one being discussed at the cafe meeting—is Barbara Levin Bergman's plan to donate an artwork as a memorial to her late husband, Reuben, the city's first DDA coordinator. The Bergman memorial will probably be incorporated into the new parking structure now being planned at the corner of Washington and South Fourth Avenue.



DDA director Susan Pollay and Barbara Levin Bergman. Bergman plans to fund a piece of public art as a memorial to her late husband, Reuben, Pollay's predecessor. The gift will probably be used at the DDA's new Fourth and Washington structure.

The previous structure at the corner was amazingly ugly, and incorporating art into its replacement is a key goal for DPAC. The group was formed by combining the DDA's pedestrian improvement committee and the Main Street Area Association's public art committee—a merger that made sense, says Onder, since "the point of public art is to enhance the pedestrian experience."

Though the U-M campus has some terrific outdoor artworks (the Cube, the Milles fountain at the League), there's hardly any downtown. (Another committee in the early 1990s did manage to get a Gerome Kamrowski mosaic installed at the entrance to City Hall.) Pending city approval, DPAC is now preparing to seek proposals from artists who'd like to create artworks for public spaces. Says Onder, "We'd like to let artists know there's a call for art."

DPAC's membership and mission overlap with another group now being organized, the Commission for Art in Public Places. While DPAC focuses on the downtown, CAPP will work to encourage public art throughout the city.

@ FAKE AD D

With 277 correct responses, last month's Fake Ad for congressional candidate Ed B. Nimby (p. 24) drew near-record numbers of entries—and complaints about the current political scene. In fact, if the entries are taken as a non-scientific poll, it appears that had Ed run for governor instead of Congress, he would have won in a landslide. Perhaps you will have Ed Nimby to kick around some more, after all.

Eugene Feingold was our winner. He's taking his \$25 gift certificate to Cousins Heritage Inn.

To enter December's contest, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number and fax us at (734) 769-3375 or E-mail penny@aaobserver.com. You can also mail your entry or drop it off at 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. No phone calls, please. Your entry must include your name, address, and phone number. (One November entry arrived without the contestant's name!) Don't forget, the Fake Ad includes the word "arborweb" somehow, somewhere. All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Thursday, December 10, are eligible. The winner receives a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in the December issue.

Check out our weekly arborweb challenge. Test your knowledge of Ann Arbor and win prizes at www.arborweb. com







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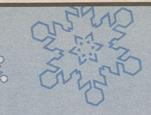


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SNÔW REMOVAL









When there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the city's Transportation Division clears 75 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, city crews de-ice the local streets in the city, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins. At this point a number of city departments become involved, supplementing the Transportation Division's equipment and operators. While the Transportation Division crews clear the major streets, Parks and Recreation and Utilities Division crews begin working on the residential streets. Plowing is done on all public streets and city-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

A city snow desk is staffed during snow emergencies. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the city and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

The City Administrator may declare a "snow emergency" during a severe winter storm. During a snow emergency, special parking restrictions go into effect for all streets in the city. Illegally parked cars will be towed and impounded.

Where street parking is normally permitted, restrictions go into effect to allow curbside access to city crews to clear the street surfaces:

- · On even-numbered days, cars may not park on the even-numbered sides of these streets in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.
- · On odd-numbered days, cars may not park on the odd-numbered sides of these streets in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered sides of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.
- Designated snow emergency routes must be kept clear of parked cars at all times during the snow emergency.

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the city depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks. During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means

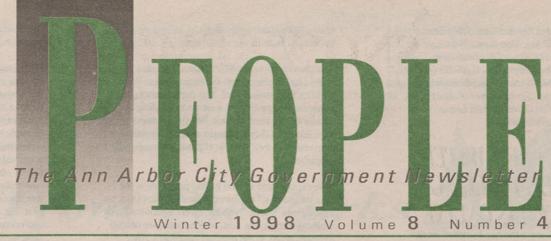
that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire width of the public sidewalk. This enables people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City Council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks. The city reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6 a.m. shall be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such sidewalk it shall be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Ice should be removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property shall remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting. Ice shall be treated and removed as mentioned above. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.



Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

RUK WHE



Winning With City Hall

CITY HONORS EMPLOYEE **CUSTOMER SERVICE** IMPROVEMENT TEAM

City staff members were recognized in a ceremony applauding employees who worked to improve customer service at city facilities. Presentations were made by the Mayor and City Administrator. The projects that follow were all employee driven customer improvement initiatives.

Ann Arbor Housing Commission

Staff conducted surveys of major Housing Commission users -tenants and landlordsand then designed two informational brochures to reach these customers. The staff used U-M student volunteers to help with the research. Rochelle Baker, Kathleen Schlipp, Ann Anglin, JoAnn Ketzner, Gayland Thompson, Leslee Clerkley, Cynthia Telfer, and Elizabeth Lindsley.



acility Supervisor

Administrative Services and Parks & Recreation Department

Staff designed, constructed, and installed informational signage about the solar pool heating system at Veterans Park in order to explain the savings of money and resources at this municipal facility. Amy Kuras,

Shilpa Lad, Irene Bushaw, Chris Miller, and David Konkle

15th District Court

In cooperation with Washtenaw County, staff created web pages for the local court systems, including information on traffic fines, schedules, judge's profiles, court locations, court dockets and civil cases. Staff also developed a juror customer survey card in order to help create a less inconvenient jury service experience. Robert Randolph, Doris Ehnis, Sandy Castle, Scot Cannell, and Kristen Buley.

Fire Department

Staff mailed a Customer Service survey card and offered free information to increase awareness of low-cost, fire-protection measures and procedures Scott Rayburn, Sandy Stewart, Ron Heemstra, Kevin Scarbrough, and Denise Linn.

Human Resources Department

Staff created an on-line listing of vendors having human rights approval. Plan developed following discussions with employees and an internal group working to improve the city's purchasing system. Sarah Singleton, Ray Chauncey, and Julie Steiner.

Parks & Recreation Department

Staff created a comprehensive customer service satisfaction program to provide on-going quality improvements for the department and facilities The strategy includes: user comment cards and suggestion boxes, secret shoppers to evaluate facilities, and a "Satisfaction Guarantee Policy" which provides a leisure loot coupon for a monetary amount to use at the specific facility where a patron is dissatisfied with a previous experience. Dee Lumpkin-Barnes, Carol Hollis, Rich Schiller, Sucheta Kulkarni, Mimi Quinzy, and Kirsten Levinsohn.

Parks & Recreation Department, Leslie Science Center

Staff created and distributed a survey to 1500 Science Center users to help guide future site use planning. Michele Gage, Teresa Schneider, Cheryl Saam, and Kirsten Levinsohn.

Parks & Recreation Department, Natural Area Preservation

Staff created temporary signs to post at parks locations undergoing restoration to keep the public informed of these special activities. Greg Vaclavek, Courtney Babb, and Kathy Sorensen.

Planning Department

Staff initiated a customer survey card to accompany the final planning review process in order to assess the level of customer satisfaction and to solicit ideas for improvement. Chandra Hurd, Chris Cheng, Karen Hart, Wendy Rampson, Andrea Brown, Jeff Kahan, Laurie Hogan, Jill St. John, and Donna Johnson.

Police Department & 15th District Court

In order to increase the safety of young children riding in cars, the Police and 15th District Court designed a program in cooperation with a nonprofit organization to promote the use of child safety seats. Special certificates were printed and distributed to drivers not using safety seats with young passengers. Instead of paying a fine, violators now have an option to take a free child safety class and to qualify for a discounted, or free, safety seat (if the driver meets income qualifications). Magistrate James Sexsmith, Deputy Court Clerk Sandy Castle, Sgt. Andrew Zazula, Lori Brinkey, Adele El-Ayoubi, Chief Deputy Clerk Doris Ehnis, and Officer Salli Berghauser.

Public Services Department, Street Maintenance Division

Staff purchased small items (magnets and key chains printed with the department's hot lines) to distribute to citizens when responding to a service request, and at presentations to neighborhood groups. H. Michael Fritz, Kris Trombley, Mike Scott, and Tim Towles.

Public Services /Transportation/Engineering/ Fleet Services

Representatives from the various divisions of the Public Services Department wrote and distributed a staff newsletter in order to increase communication between divisions on key construction projects and personnel issues. Pete Janovits (Engineering), Lili Henderson (Parking), Beverly Selvig (Transportation), Janine Mueller (Enginering), and Jeri Burbank (Fleet Services).

Risk Management

Staff acquired audiometric (hearing acuity) exam equipment and are now able to provide exams for all city employees whose job duties expose them to noise levels of 85 dB or greater. Alice Bridges and Robert Smolinski.

Solid Waste Department

Staff assessed customer satisfaction by sending a brief survey card to every fifth service request caller. Carla Baumann, Toni Wilcox, Felicia Turman, and

Survey results were reviewed and an action plan for department service improvement was developed by office staff and field supervisors. For example, to create a computer database of locations requesting disabled assistance and special refuse can handling, and revise route maps and street logs for driver and office use. Dave Scott, Ron Peatry, Roger Cole, John Newman, Bryan Weinert, Ray Ayer, and Tom McMurtrie.

Drivers considered the survey results and agreed to expand their service to pick up one small bulk item per curbside household per weeksuch as a microwave oven-instead of requiring residents to schedule a for-fee bulk collection. Donnie Beacham, Michael Burke, Lamond Coley, Susan Cowling, Douglas Fick, George Freeman, John McIntosh, Bryant Micou, Ron Odom, Gerald Rush, and Ramon Torres.

Solid Waste Department

Front load collection drivers created a plan to help increase the quality of service provided to dumpster customers by reducing the number of blocked dumpsters. Randy Williams, Gail Mulreed, Ronnie Perry, Dennis Rankin, and James Wilson.

"... government of the people, by the people, for the people ..."

The 1998 Customer Service Leadership Team: Irene Bushaw (Parks), Alan Burns (Admin), William Hampton (Police), Lili Henderson (Parking), Darlene Kelley (Court), Vickie Quibell (AFSME), Judy McAllister (Water Utilities), Nancy Stone (Solid Waste), Spring Stoner (Police), Pam Wyess (Police), Ron Olson (Admin Liaison), and Jackie Dearing (HRD Liaison).

CITY'S NEW WATER UTILITY BILLING SYSTEM IS ONLINE

In the six months since the city launched its new Customer Information System for the Water Utilities Department, response from customers has been favorable even though some customers had problem bills due to the new system. The system is now operating as intended and the "bugs" have been worked out. The new billing system provides more information to customers about their water consumption and how their bills are calculated. It also ensures that the department is prepared for the year 2000. The system offers other applications that will be utilized in the future, including the

ability to integrate with other city information systems to better serve customers.

The conversion to the new system presented many challenges, both to customers and to Water Utilities Department staff. The department is fortunate that customers were understanding and patient during the transition. Many customers explained that they had experienced a computer conversion in their own workplace and were empathetic.

"We experienced several billing problems in the first six months," explained Water Utilities Director Frank Porta. "Some problems were discovered after a billing district was sent, which meant we needed to issue credits to the affected customers. After sending out several sets of problematic bills, we made the decision to stop our billing process altogether until we were sure that these problems were resolved. This resulted in customers receiving their bills later than usual, but we knew that they were correct."

The Water Utilities Department expected some conversion issues, but did not know to what extent. "We had problems with the calculation for the summer sewer base," explained Porta. "But we

could pinpoint which customers were affected and then issue credits to them.'

Porta explained that other "glitches" resulted from the data conversion from the mainframe system to the network environment. "We had some new and creative street names for accounts in the city as a result of the conversion," said Porta, citing one example of addresses with post office boxes that converted to Pointe Street. The addresses have been corrected and the calculations now accurately reflect what the water bill should be. "The conversion was challenging," said Porta, "but the residents of Ann Arbor helped us to make the best of it. We are grateful for customers whose patience and understanding allowed us to fix the problems right the first time and make the system work for

Future services from the Water Utilities Department will include new payment options, such as electronic payment and budget billing. "We're looking forward to offering additional service options to our customers and using this system more fully," said Porta. "It has the power and capabilities to help us provide better information and service to our customers.'

Earth Day Every Day

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HOLIDAY WASTE **COLLECTION SCHEDULES**



Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 1998. New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 1999.

On Christmas and New Year's days there will be no refuse or recycling collection on the holiday Friday. Normal Friday collection routes will be picked up on Saturday. The Drop-Off Station on 2950 E. Ellsworth will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. City Hall offices, only, will close at noon on Christmas and New Year's Eve.

The weekly curbside compost collection service ceases at the end of November and will resume in April, 1999. Compostable materials are collected year-round at the Drop-Off Station.

CHRISTMAS TREE **COLLECTION PROGRAM**

The City of Ann Arbor will provide curbside collection of holiday evergreen trees for a twoweek period in January from Monday, January 4 through Friday, January 29, 1999. Please have all trees at the curb by 7 a.m. on your weekly refuse and recycling day.

Remember to remove all plastic tree bags, ornaments and stands from the trees. These trees are processed into mulch and any metal, glass or plastic left on the trees may harm the operators, ruin the equipment and spoil the finished product.

Evergreen wreaths with wire or plastic backings should be placed in the trash, or if too large, left on top of the trash can.

During January, evergreen trees may also be taken directly to the parking lot of the Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth, on Swift Run Park, near Platt Road.

Ann Arbor apartment managers may schedule a special tree pickup with the Solid Waste Department by calling 994-2807.

BUSINESSES CAN GET THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE!

Does your business or school strive to reduce waste? Would you like to increase customer appeal by showing your Earth Friendliness? The City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County provide an annual awards program to promote local "waste conscious" businesses to the public through the Waste Knot Awards program! Award winners receive free publicity (listings in ads run throughout the year and throughout the County), camera-ready artwork and engraved plaque to help proclaim your environmental achievements to your customers.

The 1998 first Annual Waste Knot Award Winners based in Ann Arbor are:

Arbor Brewing Company; Back Alley Gourmet; Carroll's Corner/Trellis Cafe; Cava Java; City of Ann Arbor Wastewater Treatment Plant; Dominick's; Eco Physics, Inc; Food Gatherers; Great Lakes Science Center; H&H Distributing; Hobbs + Black Construction, Inc; Huron Valley Girl Scout Council; J.C. Beal Construction, Inc.; Jerusalem Garden; John Barrie Associates, Inc; John D. Erdevig, Attorney; King's Keyboard House; Michigan Theatre; NWF-Great Lakes Natural Resource Center; Northwestern Mutual Life Inusrance Company; NSK Corporation; The OmniMedia Group; Parke-Davis; People's Food Cooperative; Timbuktu Station.

To learn more about the 1999 Waste Knot Award program, please call the Washtenaw County Division of Public Works at 994-2398, (or download an application from the web at:

www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/eis/eisknot.htm). Businesses, organizations and schools meeting the criteria for the Waste Knot Business Award will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 1999.

ANN ARBOR CELEBRATES AMERICA

Ann Arbor joined communities across the nation on November 15 to celebrate America Recycles Day. This year's theme was "If you're not buying recycled, you're not really recycling." To this end, a mail-in campaign was launched to encourage people to pledge to recycle and buy recycled-content products. Winners of a solar-powered, 3-bedroom "American Green Dream Home' and other prizes will be drawn on December 15 from the pledge cards mailed to the Michigan Recycling Coalition in Lansing or e-mailed to www.americarecyclesday.org.

Local events that helped promote awareness for America Recycles Day included: displays and recycled-content promotions at local businesses; local media promotions; a preview of Recycle Ann Arbor's EnHouse at the ReUse Center, 2420 S. Industrial; a pledge campaign on U-M's campus and during the November 14 home football game; an America Recycles Day Dance at Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington in Ann Arbor; and special workshops at the City's Materials Recovery Facility, 4150 Platt Road. If you are interested in viewing an entertaining, half-hour video special on your home cable television channel 10, "Complete the Circle, How to Buy Recycled, with Joanne Woodward" produced by the Environmental Defense Fund, just call Community Television Network at 994-7422 and request a replay time.

"USE LESS STUFF" THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Ann Arbor's own waste reduction guru, Bob Lilienfeld, has lead the nation and world in an entertaining crusade to "Use Less Stuff," especially during the holiday season when

America generates an extra million tons of waste a day between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day! As co-editor of ULS Report and with the support the U.S. EPA and numerous businesses and organizations, Bob has created a checklist of 42 easy ways to just "use less stuff" during this holiday season. The ULS hints include: turn down your heat before a party since the extra body heat of your guests will warm up the room anyway; plan your meal serving proportions to match the number of

guests and provide "doggie bags" if you will not be able to save the leftovers for your own use; use 36-exposure rolls of film instead of 12 or 24 exposure film to reduce waste in packaging and processing—plus this will save you \$4/roll!

The full list ULS hints is available on the Web at: http://cygnus-group.com/ULS/ULSDAY/ULSDay.html.

Another good web site that helps reduce holiday waste—by getting you off unwanted mailing lists—has been compiled by the University of San Diego School of Law at: http://www.privacyrights.org under fact sheet #4, Junk Mail.



Update From The Parks

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION DIVISION IS ANYTHING BUT DORMANT!

One might think that winter would be a quiet time for the Natural Area Preservation Division. The snow buries many of the non-native plants we battle in the spring, summer, and fall. The unpredictable weather prevents us from hosting many volunteer workdays. The birds, butterflies, and frogs we inventory annually in Ann Arbor parks have migrated south or entered hibernation. Be assured, however, that we are not waiting out winter in South America or blissfully dreaming of spring from a warm, dark den. Our division is actually a flurry of activity as we compile data from our inventories, repair equipment, and clean seeds for use in future restoration projects. This is also the time when we evaluate the past year of protecting, restoring, and championing the natural areas of Ann Arbor. We consider our successes and identify how we can be even more effective in the coming year.

This information in hand, we set work priorities for the coming year; write burn plans; plan workdays for spring, summer, and fall; and plan our upcoming breeding bird, butterfly, and frog inventories. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas by participating in prescribed burning; attending stewardship workdays; or inventorying breeding birds, butterflies, or frogs, please watch for a listing of Natural Area Preservation volunteer opportunities in the Observer calendar each month. Or for more information contact the Natural Area Preservation Division at 996-3266. We'll see you in the parks this spring!

DOES SNOW REALLY AFFECT YOUR GOLF SCORE?

For those "die-hard" golfers or anybody looking for something different to do, the Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation is offering two wintry golf events at Leslie Park Golf Course:

Annual Chili Open Golf Tournament Sat., Jan. 9 \$12/per person

Annual Blizzard Ball Scramble Sat., Feb. 13 - \$48/4-person team

Each tournament offers six holes of golf in the snow and piping hot refreshments! Preregistration is necessary. Leslie Park Golf Course is located at 2120 Traver Road in Ann Arbor. Please call 971-6840 for registration information.

For a special and unique way to celebrate a child's birthday, • • come to the Leslie Science Center!!

We offer "Prehistoric party" (ages 4-7 years), "Bugs are a blast" (ages 4-7 years), "Wildlife, woods, and water" (ages 5-14 years), "How to survive your birthday" (ages 9-adult), and "Games galore" (ages 5-12 years). Included is a Leslie Science Center T-shirt for the birthday child. Maximum number of

children is 13, including participating siblings. Parties can be scheduled after school or on weekends. Please call at least one month in advance as schedules fill-up early. 2 hours, times by special arrangements. \$85 for Ann Arbor residents, \$102 for non-residents. Call The Leslie Science Center at 662-7802 for an informational brochure or to schedule your party.



PARKS DEPARTMENT SELECTS "GOLDEN TROWEL" AWARD WINNERS

The Ann Arbor Park Advisory Commission, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Ann Arbor Garden Club, this year recognized Ann Arbor individuals and businesses who worked hard to beautify their surroundings with attractive landscaping and gardening. Created in 1986 by the Park Advisory Commission, The Golden Trowel applauds those who put forth a little extra effort in making our community a pleasant and enjoyable place in which to work and play. This year's winners are as follows:

RESIDENTIAL:

Stuart Churchill-Hoyer
& Dennis Miller
Elizabeth Bollinger
Doris Caddel
Jayne Coates
Glen Knudsvig
Dale Muir
& Vicki Gardner

510 N. Main
618 Fifth St.
1840 Mershon
1114 Baldwin
1114 Baldwin
437 Spring St.

RESIDENTIAL CONTINUING EXCELLENCE:

Will & Ann Frey 1555 Ardmoor Ralph Ray 210 Eight St.

COMMERCIAL: Weaver's

Marathon Station 1500 E. Stadium

COMMERCIAL CONTINUING EXCELLENCE:

Campus Inn 615 E. Huron

Mallecks Service Inc. Big Market Deli Peter & Julie Dodge-Village Townhouses

341 E. Huron 2220 Pittsfield

Woodbury Gardens 1245 Astor
University Townhouses 3200 Braeburn Circle

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Glen Breitner, 2584 Georgetown; Ralp Knopf, 2606 Georgetown; and Carpenter Brothers Hardware, 2753 Plymouth Rd. (supplies) for plantings at the entrance to Sugarbush Park off Georgetown Blvd.

Garrett Lussenden and Crew - Horticulture Division Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation, for plantings in the medians on Washtenaw at E. Stadium Blvd.

Awards were presented at a recent City Council meeting. For more information, please call 994-2780.

SCIENCE CENTER SEEKING CORPORATE SPONSORS

The Leslie Science Center is seeking businesses (and individuals) who are willing to sponsor school field trips. The Adopt-A-Class program enables school age children to participate in our popular environmental education programs. These programs have been designed to coordinate and supplement the public school curriculum. Sponsorship of one busload, (two classes), costs as little as \$250. Please call Kirsten Levinsohn at 997-1075 for more information. Support science education in your community!

WINTER CARNIVAL . FEBRUARY 12-14, 1999



WINTER EVENING AT COBBLESTONE FARM Friday, February 12 2781 Packard Rd. • (734) 994-2928

Join us from 6 - 9 p.m. for an evening retreat at Cobblestone Farm. All ages can escape the wintry weather and experience a typical evening in the historic Ticknor-Campbell House at a time when courting and quilting were common. Children will be delighted by seasonal craft projects, games and more in the Cobblestone Farm Center. Admission is \$2/person, \$8/family, and children under 3 are free. Preregistration is not required.

MOONLIGHT SERENADE Friday, February 12
Huron Hills Cross Country Ski Center • 3465 E. Huron River Dr. • (734) 971-6840
From 6:30 - 9 p.m. snow lovers can ski under the stars on specially lighted cross country ski paths. The trail fee is \$2.50/person. Equipment rental, which includes the trail fee, is available for \$6/adults and \$3.75/youths and seniors. (Weather

MACK POOL LUAU Friday, February 12
Mack Pool • 715 Brooks St. • (734) 994-2898
Experience a tropical paradise from 7:30 - 9 p.m. As the temperature dips outdoors, Mack Indoor Pool is transformed into a sunny Hawaiian beach complete with limbo contests, beach games, Hawaiian music, hula hoop contests, luau nibbles and more. Come dressed in Hawaiian attire and pay a reduced fee at the door. And for those willing to brave the cold, there will be an outdoor barbeque on the patio. A photographer will be on hand to forever mark this day in history. Adults \$2.50, youths and seniors \$1.50.

CHILLING IN THE PARK WALK Saturday, February 13

Southeast Area Park • Ellsworth & Platt Rd. • (734) 994-2722
Revel in the icy joys of winter with MIchigan "Snow Birds". Celebrate the season from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. as we host a mid-day "Walk-A-Fun" in the new Southeast Area Park on Ellsworth Road in Ann Arbor. It's outdoor fun at a walking pace suitable for all ages. End this chilly event with steaming hot beverages (available for purchase). Call the Bryant Community Center for more information.

VICTORIAN VALENTINE TEA PARTY Saturday & Sunday, February 13 & 14
Kempf House • 312 S. Division St. • (734) 994-4898
It's the annual Kempf House Tea Party, and the house will be decorated with traditional Victorian era Valentines. There will be two seatings each day at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. with room for 16 guests at each seating. The fee is \$12/person and includes elegant tea and assorted refreshments. Reservations are required along with prepayment. Call 994-4898 or mail payment with name, address and phone number to the Kempf House

7TH ANNUAL BLIZZARD BALL SCRAMBLE Saturday, February 13 Leslie Park Golf Course • 2120 Traver Rd. • (734) 994-1163 Play begins at 9 a.m. The fee is \$48/4-person team. Play six holes of golf in the snow and have sloppy joes and cake afterwards. Wear your woolies! City of Ann Arbor residents may register in person or by mail January 4-10. Beginning January 11, in-person, mail-in and facsimile registration will be accepted for non-residents also. All registrations must be received by Friday, February 5. Call 971-6840 or 994-2786 for more information.

OWL DROWL A WINTER HOOT Saturday, February 13
Leslie Science Center • 1831 Traver Rd. • (734) 994-1692
Join the Howell Nature Center and the Leslie Science Center staff from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. for an enchanting evening with the owls! Night hikes, owl calling, games, dissecting pellets, campfire and presentations with live owls will fill the evening with new discoveries of our owl neighbors. \$5/person, \$20/family, ages 3

and up.

VALENTINE SKATE Saturday, February 13
Veterans Memorial Park Indoor Ice Arena • Corner of Jackson & N. Maple Rds. (734) 761-7240. Rock and Roll with DJ music from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Skate to the lively sound on ice. A Valentine's special. Open to all ages.

BUHRR FEST Saturday, February 13
Buhr Park Ice Rink • 2751 Packard • (734) 971-3228
Bundle up and join us for a whole slew of wild and wooly winter activities in and around the outdoor ice rink. Drop in from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. to skate, warm your fingers and toes by the outdoor fire, make s'mores and much more including: · 2:30 - 3 p.m. Fantastic Figure Skating

A wonderful demonstration of skill and beauty on the ice, ending with a brief lesson for you from some very talented instructors. Face painting will be offered for non-skaters at this time.

· 3-3:30 p.m. Polar Games

Lead the laughs or follow the fun in this creative series of games. It's also time for s'mores!

3:30-4 p.m. Polar Ice Cream Eating Contest
Taste the arctic freeze.....Winners will be judged in several categories, and the prize is a surprise! After the contest.....it's time for s'mores – mmmmm......

4-4:30 p.m. Broom Ball On Ice

Hockey lovers, tighten your skates and get ready to sweep the ice in this playful and broomy version of one of the area's favorite games. Helmets are required and youth helmets are available. Last call for s'mores!

General skating and all activities are included in admission. Adults \$3, youths/seniors \$2.50. Skate rental available for \$2.

EARLY REGISTRATION POSSIBLE FOR 1999 CORPORATE

What had 92 legs, 92 arms, was fast as a speeding bullet (sort of), was worth over \$18,000 and was good for the community? The 1998 Corporate Challenge Canoe Race! Although there are several months left before the 1999 Corporate Challenge Canoe Race, (and 1998 participants may still be catching their breath) Parks and Recreation organizers are offering companies an early registration discount: Register by January 30 and receive a \$25 discount off your \$295 corporate entry fee! (Additional canoes are only \$245). The Corporate Challenge Canoe Race is scheduled for Sunday, July 11, at Gallup Park boat launch at 11:00 a.m.. The two-person canoes will have to row 3/4 mile, including one easy-to-maneuver turn, offering just the right amount of challenge to any canoeist. This is a chance for companies to be among the first to paddle into the millennium... and to help kids in the process call 994-2284 for registration information. (A special thank-you to our major sponsors, Ann Arbor News, Ann Arbor Subaru, Domino's Pizza, Parke-Davis, and KOOL 107FM.)

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 7, 8 & 9, IS DESIGNATED AS "CORPORATE CHALLENGE CANOE RACE T-SHIRT WEEKEND". WEAR A CORPORATE CHALLENGE CANOE RACE T-SHIRT AND YOU COULD WIN A PRIZE!

In a city-wide effort to promote the 1999 Corporate Challenge Canoe Race, organizers are asking those who own canoe race shirts from previous years to wear their shirts on May 7, 8 & 9 somewhere in Ann Arbor. If you are noticed by "secret shirt spotters", you may just win a prize. Have a bunch of canoe race shirts? Wear your favorites and loan the rest to friends! Call 994-2284 for more information.

HURON HILLS SKI CENTER GEARING UP FOR CROSS COUNTRY SKI SEASON

The Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation will operate Huron Hills Cross Country Ski Center from December 7 through March 7, if weather permits. The center provides groomed cross-country ski trails and equipment rental. Trails are open on weekdays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. for \$2.50/person and on weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. -7 p.m. at \$3/person. Ski rental is \$6/adults and \$3.75/youths & seniors for weekdays and \$7/adults and \$4.75/youths & seniors on weekends and holidays. Instruction and season passes are also available.

As an added attraction, Moonlight Serenade is scheduled for Fridays, January 15, January 29, and February 12, from 6:30 - 9 p.m. Cross country ski under the stars on specially lighted ski paths. Regular trail fees and rental rates apply.

Call 971-6840 for more information or stop by the Ski Center located at 3465 E. Huron River Drive in Ann Arbor.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!

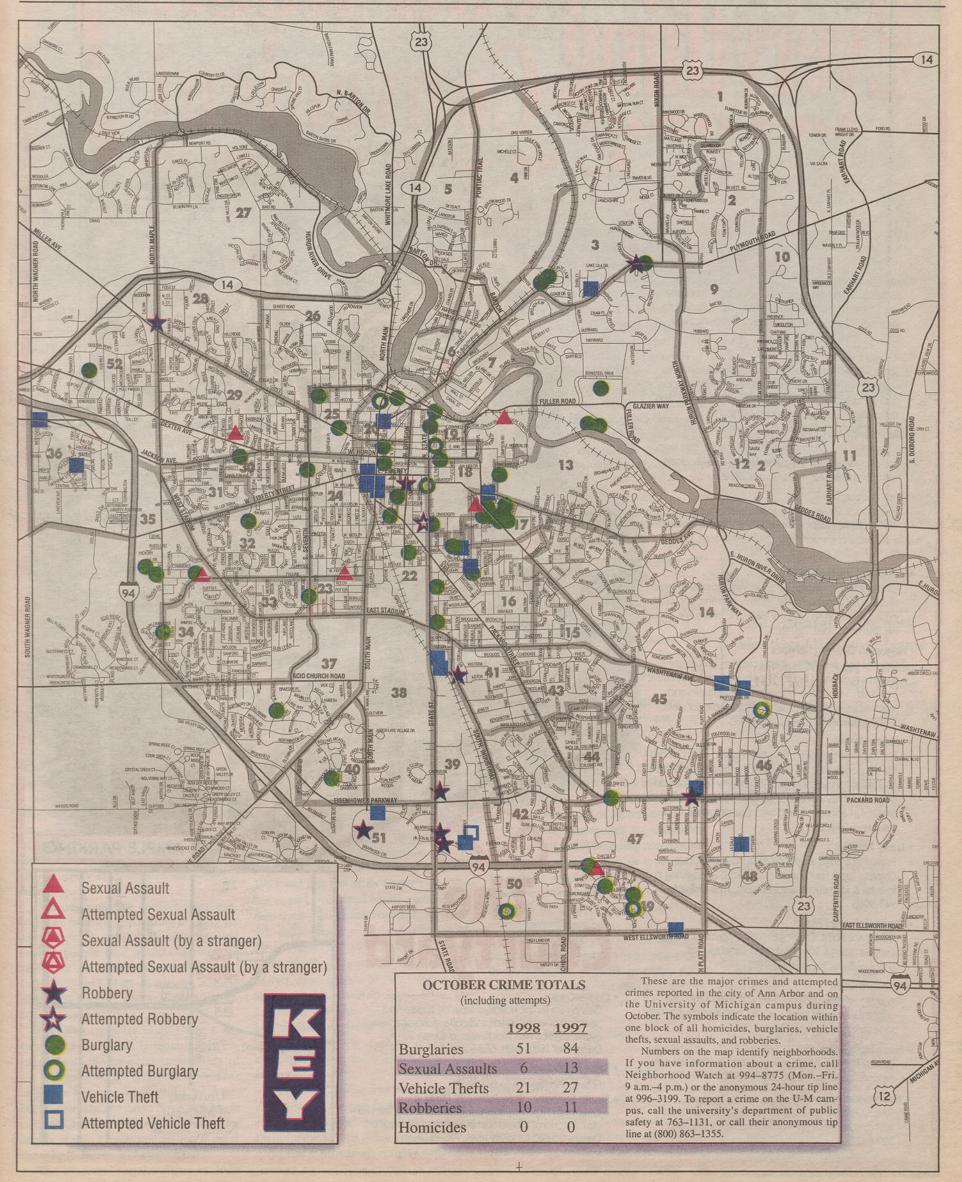
It's light and fluffy or sometimes heavy and wet. It starts out white but varies in color as the season progresses... yep, it's snow and it is surely on the way. Check out the City's Snow Removal ad on page 18. It'll tell you all you need to know about your responsibilities when it snows.

The City of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of our resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

The purpose of For The People, The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter, is to transmit factual information to the community from Ann Arbor city staff on a quarterly basis Please send comments to:

City of Ann Arbor Public Information Office 100 N. Fifth Ave. • Ann Arbor, MI 48107 734.994.1766

CRIME UPDATE



Everything Convenient

Ancient Formula

Health foods, sports nutrition, books, herbal teas, herbal extracts, vitamins, frozen foods & famous for bulk herbs. 665-7688

Ayse's Courtyard Café

Authentic Turkish home cooking. We serve traditional lamb, beef & chicken dishes, along with daily vegetarian dishes. Mouth watering clesserts & unforgettable Turkish coffee. 662-1711

· Café Marie of Ann Arbor

Distinct & delicious breakfast & lunch dishes, creative weekly specials. Fresh squeezed orange juice, cappuccino & dessert! Served in a sunny & casual, smoke-free atmosphere. Take-out available. 662-2272

Callanetics of Ann Arbor

A fitness studio offering non-impact, gentle, safe exercise programs to increase strength & flexibility, along with cardiovascular workout. 668-0710

Cloth Encounters

Fine fabrics. Patterns from Burda, The Sewing Workshop, ReVisions, Folkwear. Fine threads for hand and machine embroidery. Unusual buttons. Classes. Special orders welcome. 332-0070

• Fine Golden Needle & Bridal

One-stop shop. We sell bridal gowns, special occasion dresses, and now carry the Tiffany dress line. We offer expert alteration services for everyone who walks in and we also dye shoes. 769-8250

• Hagopian Cleaning Services

Oriental and area rugs expertly cleaned in our state-ofthe-art rug cleaning facility. Repairs performed by native craftsmen. From country braids to antique silks and tapestries, we treat them all as if they were our own. 1-800-HAGOPIAN (1-800-424-6742)

· Jetaway Travel

Have you been looking for a travel agency that can handle your corporate travel, suggest a great cruise or plan a vacation for the entire family? Jetaway Travel can do all that & more! We have a friendly knowledgeable staff, are U of M approved, and offer free delivery & flight insurance. 994-5921

Lucky Kitchen

Featuring a huge selection of fresh & delicious Chinese food for dine-in or carry-out. Specializing in low fat & low cholesterol entrees. Free Delivery! 747-9968

• Magic Memories Florist

Full service florist. Offering a monthly special. Carlson Craft wedding & social stationery. Large array of balloons & much morel 930-9461

· Michael's Salon

A professionally staffed full-service salon. Our haircutters offer a full range of salon services. Nail services & a massage therapist are available. 662-8578

Nan's Merle Norman

Personalized skin care, make-up consultation, full nail service, facials, & massages. 930-6516

Nationwide Insurance

Patricia A. Curtis agency, on your side to meet your home, auto, life & commercial insurance needs. 397-0176

The Courtyard

Origination

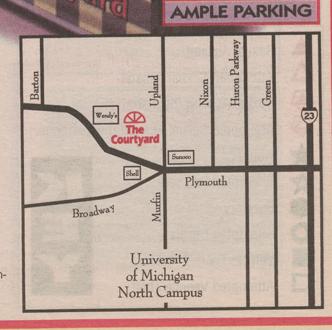
Gearing up for the holidays! Stop by and see our selection of dolls, angels and collectibles. We have everything you need for Kwaanza. Open 10 - 8, December 18th - 24th. 662-9197

Saica Restaurant

Fine Japanese cuisine. 769-1212

Stamp Friendzy - ★ Holiday Gift Ideas ★

Creative fun for everyone! Come and discover the wonderful world of rubber stamp and memory book art. Classes offered for every level. 996-4312



COMMUNITY UPDATE



Friendly, frugal, and wired

Ann Arbor's nonprofit Internet services

hile Microsoft and Netscape duel for domination of the World Wide Web, a friendlier and considerably less costly competition is taking place in Ann Arbor. Operating out of tiny offices on a combined budget of \$21,000, Grex and M-Net—which appear to be the only non-profit, tax-exempt, volunteer-staffed Internet services in the world—vie for the best conferences and chat-group discussions.

Both services offer free E-mail, themed conferences, chat groups, and access to Unix programming. While they're accessible through the World Wide Web, users can also log onto each service with only the most rudimentary of technology. One regular Grex user, taxi driver Drusilla Void, joined three years ago after hooking a modem up to a \$25 secondhand IBM PC.

"When we started, we were concerned about the growing phenomenon of information haves and have-nots," explains Valerie Mates, one of the twelve founding members who spent months of potluck dinner meetings planning the ideology and logistics of Grex.

Grex and M-Net lack the graphic sophistication of corporate services, but they compensate with friendliness and a sense of community. Regular users in both systems say they enjoy the level of discussion, diversity of viewpoints, and resulting friendships.

"Through on-line conferencing systems, we have the opportunity to really get to know people with wildly different takes on life, people who would otherwise be outside of our comfortable circle of social contacts," says Mary Remmers, a nurse and "avid Grexer" who met her husband, John, through M-Net.

For Grex treasurer Mark Conger, the quality of discussion is inextricably entwined with the financial accessibility of the systems. "What's always interested me about the web was its potential for creating community," he says. "I read an article once stating that if you don't charge for access, it won't work, and all you'll get is the riffraff. But we want the riffraff."

The systems' regular users include

computer professionals, retail employees, high school students, college professors, retirees, grassroots activists, and politicians. Their conferences address not only a diversity of interests (from cooking to Ann Arbor politics to books to Detroit to marriage) but a wide range of populations, including gays and lesbians, people recovering from substance abuse, and individuals confronting disabilities.

Building community is helped by the fact that both Grex and M-Net exist in "real life" as well as cyberspace. While both have a large number of out-of-town users, active members—and conference regulars—tend to be from Ann Arbor. Grex sponsors a three-mile walk through Gallup Park each Saturday, and M-Net hosts happy hours and periodic "game nights."

"M-Net serves as a social web for users in the local area," says M-Net system administrator Leeron Kopelman. "Many users, even groups of users, have met online and formed friendships that have endured beyond the users' participation on M-Net. Roommates, business partners, and life partners have met on M-Net."

oth systems are descendants of M-Net's original incarnation, a computer "bulletin board system" founded in 1983 and run out of its owner's Ann Arbor condo. Frustrated by the system's undemocratic ways and frequent, short-notice shutdowns, a group of disaffected M-Netters broke off in 1991 and developed Grex. Shortly afterward, another group of M-Net users bought M-Net's equipment and created a nonprofit corporation. The following year they merged with Arbornet, another nonprofit computer conferencing system. The merged entity now calls itself M-Net and is virtually identical in structure to Grex.

"The only differences between Grex and M-Net is the people and some differences in emphasis," says M-Net treasurer Dave Cahill, an Ann Arbor attorney.

M-Net's Kopelman compares the differences to "different crowds at different Grex computer network users meet off-line for a walk at Gallup Park.

bars, even if the food menus are similar."

A random browse through Grex and M-Net conferences reveals few major differences. Grex appears to have more active conferences (many M-Net conferences have not received new postings in years) and has a much more extensive and colorful website, with pages of photographs illustrating such details as the Grex office, Grex mugs and shirts for sale, and highlights from its Gallup Park walks.

The rise of the web poses the biggest challenge to the nonprofit systems. While Grex tracks more than 23,000 users, and M-Net 7,500, only a tiny fraction actively support the services: Grex has only 101 paying members, M-Net just sixty-five members and "patrons."

Both systems now allow users to access their conferences via the web. But their thin financial base means that Grex and M-Net don't have the money needed to develop more advanced web services. Is there still a place for text-based systems in an Internet that's moving toward ever more elaborate sound and graphics?

"This is a question we are asking ourselves too," says Valerie Mates. "Will the conferencing system on Grex survive among the fancy-looking websites out there?

"I think the answer is yes. Most of those fancy websites are one-way: someone designs the site and viewers look at it. Conferencing is a highly interactive twoway forum: a way that people share and interact. When you say something on Grex, people respond to you."

"It used to be obvious what Grex and M-Net had to offer that was unique," says Grex president Jan Wolter. "When M-Net started, most people could only get access to multiuser computers and sophisticated conferencing software if they paid a lot of money or if they worked for the right part of certain companies or universities.

"These days computers are ubiquitous and there is a mind-boggling range of resources of every imaginable type out on the web for people to use, mostly for free. I think to a large degree, it is an attitude [that sets the nonprofits apart from main-stream Internet services].

"Most websites, free though they may be, are basically trying to sell you something. They are slick because any good sales pitch is slick. We aren't. What we want more than anything else from people is to hear what they have to say—to engage them in a conversation."

—Julie Wiener

To obtain an M-Net account from the World Wide Web, go to http://www.arbornet.org or dial in (734) 994–6333 by modem. To obtain a Grex account, go to http://www.cyberspace.org or dial in (734) 761–3000 by modem. For both systems, type "newuser" at the login prompt.

From our family to yours ... Joy to you and yours this Holiday Season! Peace and joy in the coming year! It's Midnight Madness! Mention Our Store Name for 10% Off Your Purchase on December 4th, 1998.

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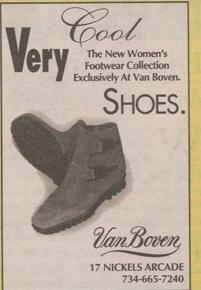
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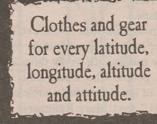


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ANN ARBORITES



Bob Levy Making the case for Hanukkah

ive Hanukkah a break, advises Rabbi Bob Levy of Temple Beth Emeth. "A lot of rabbis have the position 'it's just a minor holiday—it's terrible to make this a major holiday," Levy says. "But Judaism doesn't teach that Hanukkah can't become a bigger holiday!"

The growing interest in Hanukkah has a practical motive, acknowledges the bald but boyish-looking rabbi. The holiday falls in December, a month when Jews otherwise might feel overwhelmed by Christmas. But accommodating such pragmatic concerns, Levy insists, is not the same as abandoning tradition. He says it's not that "everybody should do what they want and we'll call it Judaism; it's rather 'let's dialogue what you do and what I do and what Judaism teaches, and let's constantly focus on what Judaism teaches.'

This month, congregants of Beth Emeth, a Reform temple on Packard, will celebrate the Jewish "Festival of Lights" by simultaneously lighting their menorahs in the front of the sanctuary. The heat is so intense, says Levy, that all the candles melt quickly. "It's a pretty stupendous

Relaxing in his slightly untidy office one Friday afternoon, Levy is wearing baggy pants and a T-shirt advertising the Jewish Community Center preschool. The phone rings, and he grabs it with a quick "Shalom, Temple Beth Emeth!" It's somebody with a question about the temple's cantor, Annie Rose. "She hasn't got a HUC [Hebrew Union College] degree," Levy tells the caller, "and she's the best cantor in America!"

Back to kibitzing about Hanukkah. The rabbi, looking mischievous, remarks that for his family's celebration he will make "nutritionally incorrect latkes [potato pancakes]. I use my German-Bohemian grandmother's recipe. You have to grate the potatoes as opposed to just shredding them-and you have to mix in a little bit of knuckle!"

Levy has been rabbi of Beth Emeth, the largest Jewish congregation in Ann Arbor, for fifteen years. Congregants and rabbi agree that it's a happy

marriage. "It says a lot about him that he's so universally popular," says member Debbie Eisenberg Merion, recalling that her parents' congregation in Florida divided angrily over their rabbi. Levy's warmth "spreads and makes the temple a hospitable place," says another congregant, Dion Frischer.

"He is quite amazingly energetic," says temple president Bette Cotzin. "I don't think people always appreciate how early his day starts and how late his days go." Whether he's riding his bike to work, telling Bible stories to children in the congregation, or leading panting parishioners to yet another ancient site on his popular tours of Israel, the rabbi radiates enthusiasm.

Beth Emeth shares its building with a Christian church, St. Clare's Episcopal. The arrangement, begun before Levy arrived, includes a rotating altar and joint worship services on Thanksgiving and Passover. "We do take it for granted," Levy says of the collaboration, "but when we stop to think about it we say, 'Wow, this is something pretty unusual and

Levy finesses delicate issues among spiritually shy congregants. The rabbi understands, without judging, the reluctance of many congregants to speak about God; their skepticism, he says, partly reflects the anguish Jews have carried since the Holocaust. Levy sees it as significant that twenty people recently signed up for a course on spirituality in Judaism. Until recently, he says, "It was easier for [Reform] Jews to see religion as a private matter.'

The congregation largely shares Levy's liberal politics. Still, some people were taken aback one Yom Kippur when the

rabbi preached a sermon, on the holiest day of the Jewish year, identifying the congregation as welcoming to gays and lesbians. Though Levy sometimes mixes politics in his sermons, he downplays his influence. "I have four minutes when I can talk to a lot of people and tell them how I feel," he says.

Levy grew up on Long Island; his father, an advertising executive, and his mother, a nurse, "now live in Florida, like all retired Jews." He went to Boston University, and married Jo Ellin Gutterman, a school psychologist, while attending Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. The Levys have two daughters, Zoe, ten, and Noa, six. "I've been pretty blessed," the rabbi says.

Asked to describe his worst disappointment, all he can come up with was the time his rabbinical school instructors told him they thought he'd flunk out. Challenged, Levy studied night and day for six weeks, and passed exams that a quarter of the class failed. "The best way to get me going," says the rabbi, with a hint of lingering outrage, "is to tell me I'm no good!"

—Eve Silberman

Brad Cross

Harmony through bells

t Harmony Hollow Bell Works on Jackson Plaza, you'll find cast bronze wind bells; larger farm, landscape, and dinner bells; and bells for special occasions like weddings. And Christmas bells, hundreds of them, which the company ships to homes and stores across the country. Each bears a red tag saying "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its

To Harmony Hollow owner Bradley Cross, the quote from the movie It's a Wonderful Life is no cliché. The bearded, forty-eight-year-old artisan, who became a bell maker as the result of a family tragedy,

believes deeply that the "repetitive, peaceful, sacred sound" of wind bells helps one to achieve harmony. "The interaction with nature's pulse through wind is an essential design ... that helps us keep tuned into natural the world," says

Cross's older brother, Jeffrey, started Harmony Hollow in Arizona. Brad took over in 1977 after Jeff disappeared from the ranch where he lived and ran the business. It was more than a year before hunters found Jeff in the nearby desert, shot to death. No one has ever been arrested for the killing.

Cross moved the business to Ann Arbor, though the bells continue to be cast in Arizona. He kept Harmony Hollow going-sometimes for comfort, sometimes out of melancholy. In a sense, he is fulfilling his brother's oft-stated wish to "remember me in the wind."

For years, though, bells were a sideline for Cross. He finished a master's degree in wild land management at the U-M, ran adventure travel trips, and consulted on land management for various organizations. When the other enterprises didn't succeed, he put all his energy into the bell business-which subsequently grew rapidly.

Harmony Hollow is now one of the nation's largest makers of bells and chimes, selling 30,000 last year, most through the mail. Prices range from \$20 to \$200. Cross does the designing and marketing, while his wife, Nancy Brennan, minds the

Hanging on gray metal racks, the patinated bronze bells invite a visitor to tap. Tones resonate and then fade—the mark of a quality bell. "Hear how the sound lasts?" asks Cross.

On Jackson Plaza, workers hunker over benches, piecing together teal-colored bells, clappers, and hangers. Want an eagle, a rooster, a Kokopelli flute player on your bell? Cross has them. There's even a bell for "Yoopers," mated with a hanger that's an outline of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

A while back, Cross designed a small bell for the city of Ann Arbor to use as an "official" gift. The bell, with the city's emblem cast into it, was so popular with visitors that Cross asked permission to make a version for sale, even offering to pay royalties. The bell's message of harmony apparently eluded City Hall: it said no.

-Jon Hall



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After years of drift,
the county and a
dozen nonprofit
groups want to create
a state-of-the-art
program for the
homeless. But neighbors and advocates
question plans for a
new shelter on Ellsworth, and time may
be running out.

by Michael Betzold

It was a stifling August night when Barbara Penrod first walked inside the other world. She saw cockroaches skittering beneath cramped bunks where men lay sweating. The room's only two fans were broken. Flies buzzed through unscreened windows. In another building a few blocks away, twenty women were crammed into a small basement, vying for two rusty showers in a furnace room.

"I was stunned," says Penrod, an administrator at St. Joseph Mercy Health System. "It was shocking to me as a resident of Ann Arbor that a community with our resources and the kind of caring people we have—that we would allow any human being to stay in these facilities."

At thirty-eight, Steve Darty says he's trying to get his entertainment agency off the ground, and that he's just served two years as a Democratic precinct delegate. But his mind is too troubled to work sometimes. Evicted for not paying rent, he has landed in Ann Arbor's homeless shelter for the second time in five years. The worst things, he says, are the lack of privacy and the mad dash in the early morning for one of the four showers or three sinks. But it's better than sleeping outside, as some of his friends do.

hat's daunting about homelessness, says Ellen Schulmeister, the tireless director of Ann Arbor's Shelter Association, is there's no easy fix. The reasons why people end up homeless are complicated. No remedy works for everybody. Tackling the issue requires patient, creative attention from lots of caring, efficient people.

If any place could get a handle on homelessness, it ought to be Ann Arbor. Yet efforts over the past fifteen years have been piecemeal. Stalwart volunteers have cobbled together a patchwork of services. Six dozen men sleep most nights in a former church on West Huron Street. Two dozen women, a few with children, bunk in the basement at Felch and North Main. Downtown churches serve breakfasts and dinners. Food Gatherers provides lunch in a shabby day shelter on Ashley, where there's a free health clinic and a small staff who provide referrals to service agencies. The threadbare, dilapidated shelters are run by the Shelter Association, a nonprofit group chronically short on funds. The system requires the homeless to walk miles each day in and around downtown to get fed and sheltered.

Homeless families stay, week to week, at twenty area churches and temples that participate in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. SAFE House harbors fifty women and children who are domestic violence victims. Ozone House has emergency shelter for five teenagers. Other families stay at the Salvation Army's Arbor Haven or the SOS Crisis Center's Prospect Place in Ypsilanti.

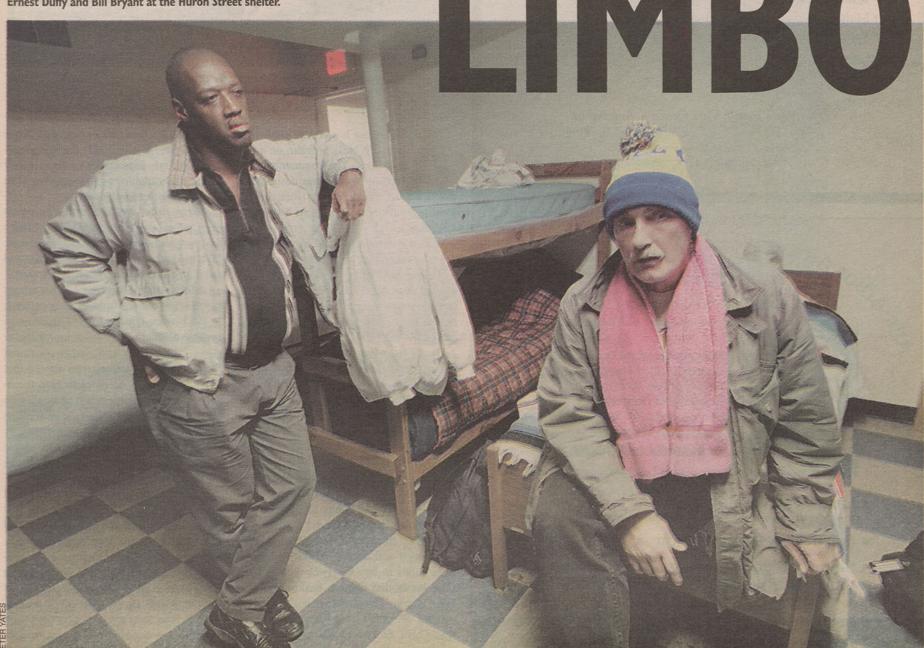
The network is frayed and bulging at the seams, scrapping for funds and struggling for respect. "We should be ashamed of the existing conditions," says Carole McCabe, director of Avalon Housing and a longtime advocate for the homeless. Through fifteen years of mounting needs and dwindling government programs, the Shelter Association has often been reduced to panhandling from city and county government just to keep the doors of its inadequate facilities open.

In 1996, a dozen nonprofit agencies that serve the homeless sought to end turf battles and look for a permanent, coordinated, comprehensive solution. At the same time, county and city leaders decided it was crazy to keep feeding emergency funds to an unhealthy bastard of good intentions and poor management.

Two years later, there is hope and dismay.

The Shelter in

Ernest Duffy and Bill Bryant at the Huron Street shelter.





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SHELTER continued

The city and county have set aside \$3.1 million to build and upgrade shelter facilities. St. Joe's is leading a coalition of providers who plan a far-reaching program to attack the causes and treat the symptoms of homelessness. But there is no assurance that this new public-private partnership will succeed. Like the people they intend to serve, the grand plans remain homeless and unsettled. What has happened is a story of competing philosophies, delicate unions, politics, and prejudices. It's a lesson in how hard it is for even the most resourceful, well-intentioned community to get a handle on homelessness.

ary fervor but little political savvy. Zick built a large donor base, but as shelter use soared, staffers were not well paid, and debt mounted.

Even as Michigan's economy recovered, the number of people seeking shelter grew. The reasons, says Avalon's McCabe, included disappearing federal housing programs, continued "deinstitutionalization" of the mentally ill, and the economy's shift toward poorly paid service jobs.

In 1990, Zick was succeeded by Jean Summerfield. A zealous advocate and political strategist, Summerfield aggressively sought services for the shelter's troubled clients. She also spun off Avalon, a nonprofit corporation that now rents 138 lowincome apartments to former shelter users. But Avalon took many of the shelter's



Energetic new shelter director Ellen Schulmeister gets high marks from all parties.

nn Arbor has always dealt with the homeless problem on a crisis basis. The community's response "never was designed in an effective way from the beginning," says Jean Barney, an early shelter board member. "No one ever stopped to ask how a shelter should be run or how programs should be organized."

People have always lived on the margins of Ann Arbor. Sleeping on streets or in parks, they used to be called hoboes or bums. Their plight was largely considered their own fault until the recession of the early 1980s, when layoffs plunged many once-independent people into homelessness. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church opened its doors to them in 1983.

Church members figured it was a charitable response to a temporary need. But soon, so many cold and hungry people came knocking that the church leased a nearby house to handle the overflow. Neighbors squawked and got the place shut-and NIMBY has shadowed the homeless shelter ever since.

In 1984, the Shelter Association was incorporated and used \$76,000 in government funds to buy the 1921-vintage First Free Methodist Church building at 420 West Huron. The shelter opened that November. For its first six years, the director was Carol Zick, a charismatic Catholic who approached the shelter with missionstrongest staffers and volunteers. After Summerfield left in 1993, the shelter cycled through four directors in as many years, each unable to curb growing debt and management problems.

Meanwhile, welfare cutbacks threw even more people onto the street. "There was never enough money," Barney says. "We tried so many times to reorganize and put it on a firm footing, but it didn't work."

A long-standing theoretical debate among homeless advocates became an open battle in 1995, when director Lisa O'Rear-Lassen began enforcing a sixty-day limit for shelter stays. The policy exposed two camps: "tough love" adherents who argued that clients needed to do more to help themselves, and "homeless advocates" who blamed the system for its lack of services and affordable housing. That winter, the City Council funded a warming center for people evicted from the shelter, either for exceeding the sixty-day limit or for misconduct.

The "homeless advocates" included many of the nonprofit service agencies that had sprung up to deal with housing-related issues. In 1992, the Interfaith Hospitality Network started coordinating congregations that housed homeless families on a rotating basis. With Ypsilanti's SOS Crisis Center, SAFE House, and other groups, IHN formed the Family Support Network in 1995 to coordinate services to area homeless families. The leaders of those

agencies and others, including Avalon's Carole McCabe, met in the summer of 1996 to ward off another winter of discontent. They decided that an effective long-term solution required a communitywide approach that included government and business leaders. "The only way you can realistically solve problems that are so deeply and structurally embedded as homelessness and housing is when you bring all the players to the table," observes Chuck Kieffer, director of SOS.

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For years, the county and city had supported the Shelter Association with annual allotments and frequent emergency allocations. In 1996, the county and the city provided almost 40 percent of the association's \$721,000 budget. As the winter of 1996–97 approached, the shelter wasn't paying its bills and could afford only one staff member to supervise seventy people all night. Some volunteers saw the situation as so dangerous that they stopped coming.

"Every November they would come to us asking for \$75,000 to keep them open," says Washtenaw County Administrator Bob Guenzel. "The commissioners had questions about where the money was going." Guenzel says the Shelter Association had "significant problems—organizational, monetary, programmatic" that could all be traced to underfunding.

The nonprofits say they asked Guenzel to take the lead in convening a task force. When pressed, Guenzel acknowledges that invitation, but otherwise portrays the county as taking the initiative: "We said to the shelter, 'We'll bail you out.' But we told the Shelter Association, 'You have to get your act together.'" On November 20, 1996, at Guenzel's urging, the County Commission approved giving \$40,000 to the shelter and creating a task force on homelessness, on the condition that the shelter accept county oversight.

Ann Arbor City Administrator Neal Berlin, who headed the task force with Guenzel and Ypsilanti City Manager Ed Koryzno, takes credit for the new effort. "It certainly didn't come to a head because the community was saying we have to do something," Berlin insists. "Bob and I said we're not going to go through this every year. Bob and I discussing it is what brought it to a head." City Council signed on quickly—for weeks, they'd been battling disruptive protesters who demanded they turn the former National Guard armory into a new homeless shelter.

veryone came to the table with a different view of the problem. To Guenzel, Berlin, and some other officials, the issue was primarily inadequate facilities and mismanagement. "My initial goal was to fix up the problem and find a new location for the shelter," Guenzel recalls. In comments he made at the time, Guenzel called the shelter board "dysfunctional."

Ann Arbor Mayor Ingrid Sheldon saw too much attention to long-term solutions. "The emphasis on permanent housing was shortchanging the emergency shelter provision," she says. She applauds the agencies' willingness to get involved. "Prior to that, most people acted like it was the govern-

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SHELTER continued

ment's responsibility to take care of the homeless," she complains. Sheldon says she hoped that the task force "would finally depoliticize the homelessness issue, because such a broadly based group had been

Republicans on the Board of Commissioners see the county's involvement with the homeless issue as purely political, a big-government program rammed through by the board's ten-to-five Democratic majority. "There's other ways to deal with these social issues than to continue to throw government money at them all the time," protests Commissioner Joe Yekulis of Chelsea.

Downtown merchants, meanwhile, continue to see raggedy people on Main Street, and imagine their customers fleeing to the malls. "The image of homelessness has been the problem, the perception that they seem to be everywhere," says Woody Holman, president of the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce. "If there are people on the streets pushing their shopping carts, while that may be an isolated phenomenon, they call attention to themselves. I hear a lot about it from the retail community."

Most shelter users have drug or alcohol addictions, mental health problems, or both. But "the biggest surprise for most people is that about sixty percent of our people work," says James Bryant, manager of the day shelter. Most are employed full time, Bryant says, typically for \$5 to \$7 an hour, but some for as much as \$10. "If somebody's working every day and can't afford a place to live, that's a community issue," he says.

Bryant acknowledges that someone earning \$10 an hour can afford to rent an efficiency apartment, even in Ann Arbor. But, he points out, "budgeting is a big problem [even] for so-called normal people."

Believers in "tough love" see the problem primarily in terms of individuals overcoming addictions. In their view, a system that feeds and houses people without requiring their recovery from self-destructive behavior becomes a "codependent," enabling them to indulge their habits. The tough-love faction would refuse services to clients who don't make progress in overcoming their problems within a certain time period, regardless of the obstacles they face.

The "advocates," meanwhile, see homelessness as a systemic problem. "You can achieve all the independence you want, but if you can't afford to pay for housing, it doesn't do any good," says shelter director Schulmeister. If you're just scraping by on a minimum-wage job, she says, "any medical emergency will sink you. You can't pay rent, you get evicted, you get a bad credit rating, and it's harder to get another place. If you don't address the problem of affordable housing, you end up with more and more people being at the shelter."

With so many competing perceptions, it's no wonder the task force participants have had trouble getting on the same track. And no one is sure how many homeless people there are in Washtenaw County. Count the number taking up shelter spaces each night, and you get to about 200. But there is no way of knowing how many "make the rounds" from place to place-at least until the county sets up its planned computerized data base.

Despite the lingering questions, much has changed since the task force set to work. In the past two years, plans have been developed for an all-new shelter south of town, and an alliance of social service groups has been retained to run it. This proposed new system of care would complete a transformation in which the growing numbers of homeless have gone from scarcely noticed "bums" to an object of focused charity, and finally to a major government and social-service priority.

If, that is, the plans ever get off the

hough there is disagreement on whose ball was brought to the game, there is little doubt that Bob Guenzel took it and ran with it. Even in a brief conversation, it's clear that patience isn't Guenzel's long suit. He can't wait to get to his next point.

Guenzel's vision of the problem drove the process. From the start, the nonprofits wanted to address issues related to all homeless people, including families. Instead, Guenzel set up a task force to study how to shelter single adults. Overruling a preliminary task force report that called for building a new shelter with fifty beds, Guenzel proposed in March 1997 that county-owned property in Pittsfield Township, on the southeast corner of Ellsworth and Stone School roads, be used to build a 200-bed shelter.

Guenzel had no approval from commissioners before making his plan public. He hadn't talked to area residents or officials from Pittsfield Township. They all read about the plan in that afternoon's Ann Arbor News.

Among Guenzel's selling points: the site already housed the county's human service agencies building and the state's Family Independence Agency (formerly the Department of Social Services); it wouldn't cost anything to acquire; it was centrally located in the county. "I thought that among the advantages of Ellsworth were that it was closer to Ypsilanti, and it was next to a pig farm, so there were no neighbors," Guenzel explains.

"The positives are that it's availableand land is not cheap-and that there is bus service," says Woody Holman. "And it looked like this would reduce the impact of homelessness on the downtown area." Ingrid Sheldon says she, too, found Ellsworth "attractive" because "it is not located in downtown Ann Arbor, and another municipality would be sharing the responsibility for caring for the population."

Many homeless advocates, however, felt blindsided by Guenzel's blitz. "Almost all the service agencies were pretty much against it because of the whole idea of warehousing two hundred people in one place," recalls Doug Smith, director of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. "It was an obscene thought to everyone. And moving them out of the downtown area, that was buying into the business community's prejudice against homeless people."



County Administrator Bob Guenzel initiated plans for a new shelter on Ellsworth.

Advocates point out that many homeless people work downtown and that many of the churches, clinics, and other institutions that serve them are there. Yet despite these and other objections, the task force approved Guenzel's recommendation.

'Nobody who had been involved in sheltering felt that was the way to do it," explains Barney. "But they felt that the only way to move ahead in a politically effective way was to go along with it, but figure out how to work with it. Leaders of agencies can't afford to alienate a source of their support." Smith recalls, "We had a choice. Do we condemn the process or participate?"

"Ellsworth became a very emotional and philosophical argument," Guenzel acknowledges. "Some people went so far as to say, 'We need the homeless to be in our face every day, and you want to hide them away out in the country." Guenzel contends the location doesn't matter to him. "I never had a disagreement with downtown," Guenzel insists. "My issue was 'I have a site. Does anybody else?' And nobody did. Even to this day, they don't."

How hard city and county officials searched for another site remains a bone of contention. The facilities siting subcommittee, which included Schulmeister, favored four smaller shelters. But, she says, "We trusted the experts in the [city and county] planning departments, who said there was nothing else available."

Berlin says he asked his staff and the City Council for a suitable site early in 1997. "There wasn't an appropriate site that could be identified anywhere else," he says. "And as we moved down the road, we could see: What site wouldn't have problems? It [Ellsworth] became the site sort of by default."

Guenzel explains his eagerness to name a site as an important step in moving the process forward. "I've been criticized as being too pushy and not involving anybody," he says. "But I thought it was important to get the task force off the dime." He also needed to get funds for the shelter into the county's building budget, and the deadline for adopting that was approaching. "That was driving the process," says Schulmeister. "We just weren't aware of it at the time."

Guenzel worked out a plan to include \$3.1 million for the shelter in the county plan; Berlin agreed the city would repay one-third of the total. City Council members didn't like giving the county control of the project, and some fretted about the site and the lack of an operating plan. In the end, council approved the joint venture over the objections of three Democrats: Jean Carlberg; Heidi Cowing Herrell, whose constituents are the nearest neighbors to the Ellsworth site; and Tobi Hanna-Davies.

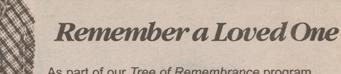
The five Republican county commissioners also opposed the plan, though for different reasons. Chelsea's Joe Yekulis says that his constituents don't support using tax dollars for a shelter. "The church community has provided a tremendous service in taking care of the homeless," says Yekulis, "and that's where it needs to remain, within the private sector."

Under Michigan law, a two-thirds supermajority of county commissioners must approve any plan to site county buildings and finance them with bonds. But with the ten-to-five Democratic edge, Guenzel felt he could count on passage.

After a brief defection by Vivienne Armentrout, who was concerned about the Democratic City Council members' objections, the only question mark was Leah Gunn. Gunn had just been elected in 1996 to represent the Twelfth District, which includes the proposed shelter site on Ellsworth.

Under pressure from constituents to scotch the plan, Gunn cast the deciding vote to approve it. Gunn says she liked the Ellsworth site "because it's free, we own it, and we won't be taking land off the tax rolls."

laudia Myszke is manager of the Forest Hills Co-op Apartments, one of three federally subsidized townhouse complexes in southeast Ann Arbor. She says the neighborhood is one of the few places in the city that actually have the diversity to which so many Ann Ar-



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SHELTER continued

borites give lip service. "We have all types of folks living here-doctors, lawyers, engineers, people on assistance," Myszke says. "It's a good cosmopolitan mix of people."

To area residents, Guenzel's announcement that a huge homeless shelter was going to be their new neighbor came with a sickeningly familiar thud. For years, the neighborhood had lived in the shadow of the city landfill and had wrestled with the city to get a local park. As Myszke puts it, "The feeling of the people here was 'Here we go again.' We were again being looked at as an area where anything could be done-'low income' being synonymous with 'Who cares?'

Myszke says she filed several requests under the Freedom of Information Act for lists of suitable parcels owned by the city and county. She says that officials provided only "helter-skelter types of lists that you couldn't decipher" and that Guenzel and Berlin were not helpful in meetings called to clear up the issue. "There was not any time spent looking for alternative sites," Myszke charges.

But when angry southeast area residents tried to recall Gunn, they had trouble getting their petition language approved, and the drive fizzled. In last month's election, Gunn was challenged by Ken Dignan, who made the shelter the key issue in his campaign. She won easily.

At public meetings, officials promised that no shelter would be built unless neighborhood concerns about services and transportation were satisfied. Neighborhood representatives joined the task force, which downsized the plan to 125 beds and recommended keeping emergency sheltering downtown. Providers also convinced officials to convene a second task force to study families and more comprehensive, long-term solutions to homelessness.

So far, the Ellsworth site has survived challenges from service agencies, from Republicans on the county board, and from southeast area neighbors. But now it faces what may be the biggest obstacle of all: Pittsfield Township has filed a lawsuit demanding that the county comply with its zoning restrictions, which specify industrial uses for the site.

'I didn't expect Pittsfield's negative reaction," Guenzel admits. "After all, it's a neighborhood that doesn't have any Pittsfield residents.'

"We're trying to protect future residents in advance," replies Pittsfield Township Supervisor Doug Woolley. He says he's concerned that if the social services coalition that will operate the shelter falls apart, or if member agencies lose their funding, the building might be abandoned and turned over to the state for a halfway house. Guenzel says he offered to provide written assurances against that, but Woolley wasn't impressed.

Woolley says it's unfair for township fire and police to bear the burden and costs of security for the proposed shelter. Neal Berlin says that could be avoided if the city annexed the site. However, that, too, is unacceptable to Woolley: "We have an agreement that they will not ask for any more annexation."

The township and the city and county are also fighting over plans to build a vehicle garage at the landfill. Woolley says the city promised a park there; Berlin disagrees. Guenzel says a different shelter site might "make the township feel a little better about the fleet garage." He adds, "We floated a trial balloon on that, but we got no response."

With no give in Pittsfield's position, the lawsuit will almost certainly go to trial. Woolley says, flatly, "They're not going to be able to offer us anything that will change our mind."

oor people know the drill. It's called hurry up and wait. Since Guenzel's opening rush, the homeless-shelter game seems to have bogged down in an endless series of committee meetings and political squabbles. But some major decisions have been made in the past eighteen months.

The service providers have used the time to advance their vision of a broadly based attack on homelessness. "We had to move them off the idea of constructing just an emergency network," says Doug Smith. "It's been an education of our political leaders." In January 1998, the Joint Steering Committee on Homelessness, composed primarily of city and county officials, issued a report that emphasized affordable housing and recommended downsizing Ellsworth further, to a 90-to-120-bed facility, and keeping a strong downtown component.

More important, in a head-to-head battle over who would run the shelter, the progressive wing of the service providers roundly defeated the more conservative adherents of a "tough love" approach. The dozen liberal-minded nonprofits strengthened their credibility by creating a new Washtenaw Housing Alliance and approaching the St. Joseph Mercy Health System to be its lead agency. "We felt it was very much in sync with our mission," says Barbara Penrod, who is the system's director of "healthy communities."

In April 1998, the alliance submitted a proposal to the county to operate the shelter. The ambitious plan called for a comprehensive approach to sheltering, combining and coordinating existing services and implementing new ones. The budget looked enormous—\$8.3 million a year—but almost all of it was money already being spent by alliance member agencies for existing services. The city and county would chip in their customary annual sheltering allocation, about \$100,000 to \$200,000 apiece.

The other proposal came from the Salvation Army. Founded to minister on skid row, the church has vast experience dealing with the homeless and strong ideas about what approach is right for them. Since 1981, it has operated Arbor Haven, a homeless shelter on Henry Street, off South Industrial. Initially a one-night drop-in shelter, Arbor Haven is now a twenty-four-hour-a-day program with seventeen spaces. Individuals are admitted only if they agree to "work a program" to

resolve issues that led to their homelessness. There's a ninety-day limit on stays.

The Salvation Army pledged \$1.1 million to operate the shelter programs and vowed to kick in another \$1 million to start an endowment fund. "In four years the county wouldn't have to give us a dime" to operate the shelter, says Captain Gary Felton.

The committee asked the two groups to try to merge their proposals. But after hours of meetings, the effort failed. The Army insisted on independent fund-raising and refused to bend on its stricture against cohabitation of unmarried couples in the shelter. The alliance insisted on handling shelter admissions, effectively barring the Army from implementing its policy of accepting only people willing to work on their problems.

At the steering committee's August meeting, the Army announced that it could not take responsibility for running the shelter under those conditions. Only Sheldon and Holman backed the Army, and the alliance won control of the shelter.

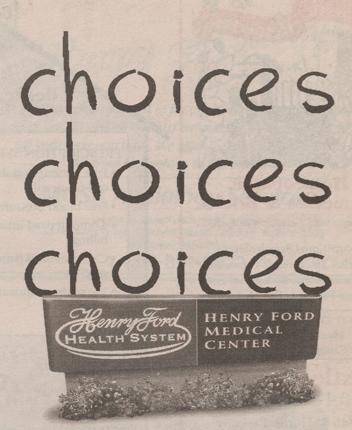
s the joint proposal collapsed, it appeared that the Ellsworth site, under discussion for a year and a half, might be abandoned as suddenly as it had been taken up. Guenzel and the joint steering committee confirmed that they were considering an alternative site on North Main.

The property, known as University Park, is a four-acre complex of five buildings. Officials had known about the site for a while. When the owners dropped the price from more than \$2 million to \$1.5 million, Guenzel jumped. The steering committee toured the site and engaged an architect to see whether renovating the buildings was feasible. The site borders a Girl Scout camp and a nursing home. At a public meeting, a Girl Scout leader spoke out against it, as did nearby residents, a local property owner, and Sheldon, who objected to having Ann Arbor bear the entire sheltering burden for the county. "I suggested that if we were going to be the host community, then maybe the county would like to pick up the entire bill," she says.

Other officials found the site appealing. "North Main would have been better [than Ellsworth] in that it was closer to the central business district," says Berlin. Guenzel says he liked the site because "it was downtown but not really downtown." Also, he adds, the neighborhood reception was "not as hostile" as at Ellsworth.

One neighbor was not only hostile but well financed. Even before an estimate for renovation costs could be made, the property was snatched up by Farmington Hills developer Steven Schafer. He plans to build an upscale 158-unit condominium project along Main Street just south of University Park, and says the shelter would have jeopardized his \$45 million investment.

The collapse of the North Main option put the shelter plans into limbo. The Washtenaw Housing Alliance has drafted an overall plan for operating the shelter system, but details are hard to settle while the site is up in the air. The steering committee is moving toward approval of a contract with the alliance, but that too will be diffi-



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SHELTER continued

cult while so many questions remain open. All participants say they are willing to consider another site, but in the absence of any other, they remain committed to—or stuck with—Ellsworth.

hile the future is uncertain, things are improving at the shelter. Last year, the county created a thirteen-member Management Oversight Committee (MOC) to bring a firm hand to the Shelter Association's internal organizational problems. The MOC decided to close two auxiliary sites, a transitional house for women at 411 Ashley and a men's transitional house in Ypsilanti.

The MOC hired Schulmeister, a former business manager at St. Andrew's, after an executive search failed to find anyone else willing to take the job for under \$50,000. From October 1997 to February 1998, the MOC board had tried to run the shelter itself, leaving Schulmeister with an administrative mess. A computer crash, which destroyed donor and volunteer records, didn't help. The shelter has about 800 donors, most of whom pay the minimum \$10 a year to be members. One of Schulmeister's goals is to centralize and improve volunteer operations, which are now handled at each of the three shelter sites.

Schulmeister gets high marks from all parties. The first shelter director with a business background, she shows a compassionate yet sensible understanding of the challenges of dealing with the homeless. She still enforces the sixty-day rule, but not rigidly. And she says she never liked the everyone-to-Ellsworth option: "It's unrealistic. You're not going to round up people and send them out to Ellsworth and maintain them there as if it's a prison."

The Chamber of Commerce's Woody Holman says even most downtown merchants are now open to keeping some sheltering downtown, "particularly if we are doing a better job of serving the homeless and controlling their actions." But if sheltering is to continue downtown, the present battered facilities will need to be upgraded or replaced.

Schulmeister longs for improvements at the old church building on West Huron—more bathrooms, a new ceiling, more partitions to divide sleeping areas. "We don't expect it to be the Hilton, but it would be nice to have a little more space, a little more privacy," she says.

Unfortunately, the building is in the Allen Creek flood plain. Under federal flood insurance program rules, the city may not permit any new residential construction there, and renovations may not exceed 50 percent of a building's assessed value. Fortunately, that limit doesn't include work needed to comply with building code requirements. Architect Lori Sipes of Architects Four estimates that doing deferred maintenance and meeting code requirements alone will cost more than \$180,000. For another \$100,000, the shelter could create separate sleeping and lounge areas for men and women, add more storage space, install air-conditioning, and put in a more secure front door.



Pittsfield Township Supervisor Doug Woolley has gone to court to block the Ellsworth plan.

The Huron shelter is actually the best of the three existing facilities. Under the current thinking, the Felch Street women's shelter would not be maintained because it is too cramped. If Huron Street can be adequately renovated, single women could move back there. Failing that, another site will have to be found for the women.

There is also the question of a new day shelter. Everyone agrees that Ashley Place is too dilapidated to be used. If another site were found for a men's overnight shelter, the church on Huron could be turned into a day shelter-though once again, floodplain restrictions would limit the renovations. If not, then another day shelter site would have to be found.

Meanwhile, the alliance has formulated a multiprogram model for Ellsworth, with separate "pods" for families, single men, single women, and other services. But it is hard to move forward while so much is undecided. "It is critical to know what the physical space will be," says Penrod. Jane Barney notes, "An awful lot of time and energy was spent designing a plan that would include Ellsworth, and now that might not even happen."

Much hinges on the disposition of the Pittsfield Township suit. The case is assigned to Washtenaw County Circuit Court judge David Swartz. Both sides have agreed to move for a summary judgment, and are scheduled to file briefs on December 15.

Under Michigan law, local zoning ordinances ordinarily prevail, but exceptions have been recognized. The county is relying on a state law that gives county commissioners the power to erect county buildings. "It seems to us that preempts the township's right to enforce zoning laws," county corporation counsel Curtis Hedger says. But Pittsfield's Woolley says recent court decisions elsewhere strengthen the township's position.

A related question is whether the county's building bonds could be used to finance work at another site. Hedger says, "We can move to a different site because of the lawsuit no matter what the disposition is, because the lawsuit has delayed the project at the Ellsworth site." Asked if the bonds could still be used if the county wins the lawsuit but the alliance and the steering committee opt for another site anyway, Hedger replies, "I don't know. It would be a fact-sensitive situation." Sheldon says, "I hope the county gave themselves some wiggle room."

he question is relevant because within the alliance, dissatisfaction with the Ellsworth site runs deep. And now that the alliance has won the battle to operate the shelter, it has gained considerable power in steering the process. In fact, Penrod says she is actively launching a search for a new site. She says she has ordered the real estate division of St. Joe's to begin looking at possible alternative locations for a new shelter, including the hospital's main campus and other health system holdings as well as properties controlled by other agencies in the alliance.

Guenzel concedes that his homelessness initiative has "taken a lot longer than we ever thought it would." But he adds, "The significant thing that's a positive now is that we are talking about a more systematic approach that has the potential to have very long-term positive effects on the issue."

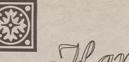
The administrator says he's open to another site, as long as the renewed search doesn't cost the project its momentum. "I don't want to spend another two years looking at another site, dealing with the concerns of the neighbors, doing feasibility studies," Guenzel warns. "If we don't do it soon, I'm afraid it will never get done."

Any contract with the alliance and operating budget for a new sheltering system must still be approved by the City Council and the county commissioners. And even if the county wins the Pittsfield suit, a new legal challenge from the neighborhood is still possible.

Meanwhile, Joe Yekulis worries that the budget will rise and taxpayers will get socked again. As Guenzel himself admits, "Three million might not be enough to build the physical plant." He says the city and county won't commit more funds, but he adds, "We may ask St. Joe's to help us raise the rest.

After two years, Guenzel's patience is wearing thin. "I hope we can get something," he says. "In the end, it may not happen, but at least I know we brought the community together."

"Everyone wants to do something about the homeless problem so that it will go away," Schulmeister says. "But it's not something that you can say, 'This is what we're going to do and it'll be solved.' There is no easy solution."



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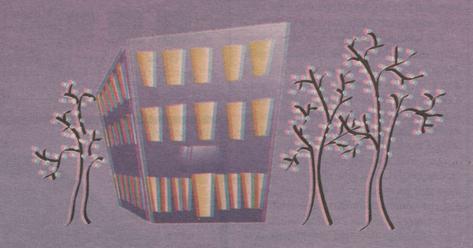


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A deluge of restaurants, a defiant alternative culture, and a passionate sense of place—the once sleepy 'burb of Royal Oak may be the Michigan city that's most like Ann Arbor

by Eve Silberman

t some point in the last five years, I heard that the city of Royal Oak had become fun, cool, trendy. This was interesting news. I had grown up in nearby Oak Park, and I remembered Royal Oak as just another bland suburb. The Detroit Zoo is in Royal Oak, but the zoo always seemed a magical place with no address. Royal Oak to my family meant a few pleasant but unexciting places like Ted's Drive-In and the Totem Pole restaurant.

Ann Arbor, on the other hand, seemed almost exotic. When we visited relatives there, the hilly streets and glimpses of the campus suggested other, more interesting, worlds than Detroit suburbia. When I was in high school during the late 1960s, I loved walking across the Diag and having certified hippies flash peace signs at me. U-M turned me down (I went to Duke; go figure), but Ann Arbor was where I went after I got tired of the starving writer's life in New York and Washington, D.C. It was the next best thing to a big cosmopolitan city: a little cosmopolitan city. Ann Arbor, I told friends, was the only place in Michigan where I'd consider living.

But lately people have been telling me I'm missing something. Royal Oak, they've said, has become more like Ann Arbor, with a lively downtown and a thriving "alternative scene." Ann Arborite Wendy Stickel brought me up to date. Stickel grew up in Royal Oak and recalled the city of her childhood as pretty dull: "Downtown then was Kresge's, a stationery store, and then nothing, noth-

ing, nothing." But, she added, "it really exploded when I was away at college [from 1984 to 1988]. It's become such a trendy place."

Stickel is a social worker; her husband, David, is a financial analyst at Ford. Deciding where in Michigan to settle down, she told me, they looked for "vibrant downtowns, old neighborhoods, good school systems" and soon narrowed their choices to just two cities: Ann Arbor and Royal Oak.

So Royal Oak had changed. I wondered how much. Did Ann Arbor, which has six "sister

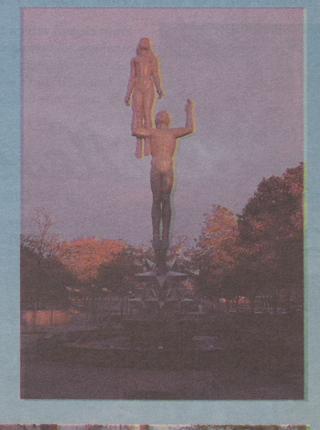
cities" throughout the world, have another in Detroit's bland 'burbs? Had it become more like us? To find out, I visited Royal Oak for the first time in more than twenty years.

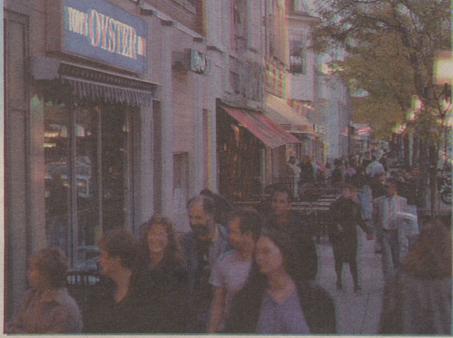
Singles scene

On a Saturday evening, at 9:30, my friend Amy and I drive past the Detroit Zoo and down Royal Oak's Main Street, where we find ourselves in a river of traffic. After circling a couple of blocks, we finally

squeeze my car into a tiny, possibly illegal parking spot. We're headed for a bar called

Woody's Diner, and we don't need a map: the three-story brick and glass building on Fifth Street blazes with colored lights.





(Above) Blighted by the malls, Royal Oak's downtown bounced back dramatically in recent years. (Top) Marshall Fredericks's controversial fountain.

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Woody's isn't winking at underage drinkers: a beefy, no-nonsense man stands by the door, demanding our drivers' licenses. We climb to the roof and emerge a few hundred bodies away from the nearest bar (one of three in the building). "I think they're over capacity," Amy says.

Starting conversations with Woody's customers isn't hard-this is more or less a singles scene for metro Detroit. "We're still trying to relive our college days," says a guy from Novi, brightly. He and his two twenty-something buddies cheerfully admit they come to Woody's to meet women.

"I see one big difference between here and Ann Arbor," Amy whispers to me. "All the women are wearing high heels." Many also favor short or skimpy skirts or dresses, and the color black. In the center of a group, we spot one woman wearing a bridal veil and a T-shirt that reads "Suck for a buck.'

"It's her bachelorette party," one of her friends tells us, raising her voice to be heard. The friend points to the Life Savers taped to the back of the bride-to-be's Tshirt: that's what you can suck for a buck. Not surprisingly, all the takers are men. The friend, who's wearing a black lace top over a short black skirt, says they have raised thirty dollars in no time. It's a help, she says seriously, because bachelorette parties are expensive.

Hearing we're from Ann Arbor, the bride's friend tells us she's an MSU grad and offers her opinion that in Ann Arbor, "The guys are nice, but the girls treat them like shit. It's usually from lack of money. It's nice to be a girl in Ann Arbor, because the guys treat you so well."

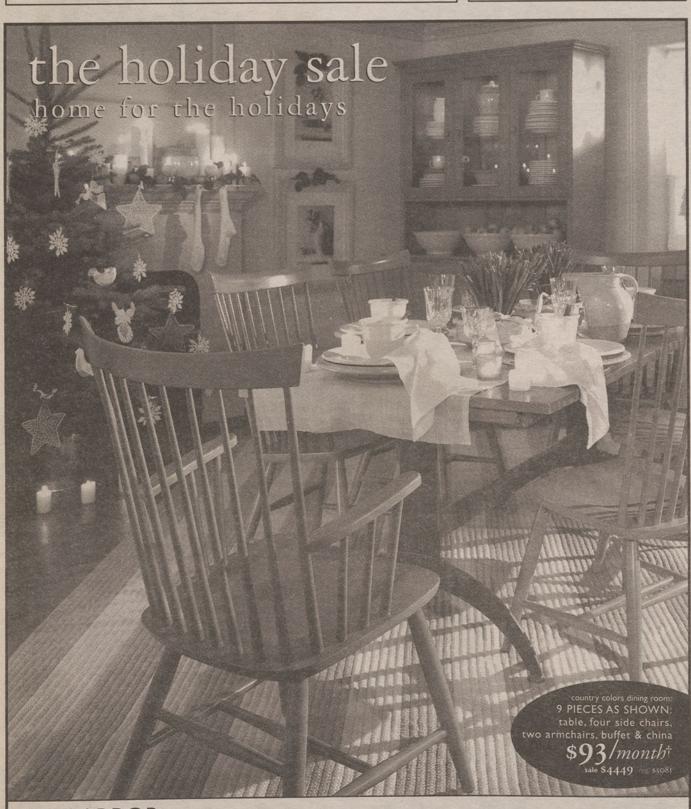
A guy who has just finished licking one of the Life Savers also has an opinion. "I love Ann Arbor," he tells us drunkenly. "Ann Arbor is more where it started, I guess." He rambles on about how Ann Arbor was trendy way before Royal Oak.

Bust to boom

Drunk or not, he's basically correct: Royal Oak's downtown went bust sooner than Ann Arbor's, and it took longer to come back. "There were twenty-three boarded-up storefronts when I moved in," store owner Heidi Lichtenstein tells me when I return for a weekday visit.

Much older than the postwar suburbs that surround it, Royal Oak was incorporated as a village in 1891 and became a city (population 6,000) in 1921. "Royal Oak was a city before it became a suburb," stresses Roberta Braman, a teacher and lifelong city resident. The war memorials near the public library testify to that, poignantly offering the names of Royal Oak's fallen in both world wars, Korea, and Vietnam.

Royal Oak's downtown, centered on the intersection of Main and Fourth, was small but complete, with department stores, dime stores, and pharmacies. But Detroit's suburban expansion after World War II (which pushed Royal Oak's evolution from a tiny city to a large, bedroom suburb) also devastated its commercial district.



ANN ARBOR

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HOME INTERIORS

The opening of Northland Mall in Southfield in 1954 was the beginning of the end for Royal Oak's traditional stores. Competition intensified with completion of the Oakland Mall in Troy in 1968. Within a dozen years, all of Royal Oak's biggest stores-Winkelman's, Kresge's, Cunningham's-either had closed or were in their final decline.

Ann Arbor went through the same cycle, but later and more slowly. Our last downtown department stores, Jacobson's and Kline's, held out for two decades after Briarwood opened in 1974. By the time they left in the mid-1990s, Ann Arbor's reputation for dining and specialty shopping was so well established that the vacancies filled almost overnight. Royal Oak's path back was harder.

"When I moved in, in 1980, it was a ghost town," recalls Patti Smith (not the singer). Her boutique of the same name sells both new and vintage clothes to "people who are not afraid to express their individuality," as Smith puts it. During the 1980s, Royal Oak gradually built a new identity as a mecca for free spirits rebelling against the homogenized newness of the surrounding suburbs.

Where Madonna's stepmother shops

Heidi Lichtenstein opened her store, Cinderella's Attic, in 1986. Today it's part of a cluster of funky stores near the busy Fourth-Main intersection. The afternoon I visit, the dark-haired, vivacious Lichtenstein sports bright red lipstick and a blue workman's shirt that says "Carl Chevrolet" on the pocket. A customer in his twenties is trying on Hawaiian shirts; a high school age girl is looking for clothing with pictures of Mickey Mouse. A lot of fiftyishstyle lampshades hang from the ceiling; the jackets of 1950s and 1960s records (Connie Stevens, etc.) decorate the walls.

Regretfully, Lichtenstein says that she's had to change the store's emphasis from selling natural fabric clothes to the retro polyester adored by the high school set. "I opened the store against polyester," she complains. Still, Lichtenstein, who grew up in Birmingham, is having fun-some days. "The drummer for Bruce Springsteen came in," she recalls. "I traded him tickets for clothes. Last week, one of the guys from Duran Duran came in. Madonna's stepmother shops for her."

Incognito, across the street from Cinderella's Attic, appears to be catering to

disciples of the rock band Marilyn Manson: the merchandise includes black leather jackets, platform shoes, and sequined hats. The music that's playing is nothing subtle, and I'm the only one over thirty in the store. The clerks give me cool glances, and I clear out.

I feel more at home at Decades, which calls itself a "collectibles" store. The Baby Boomer in me warms to the display of Leave It to Beaver photographs, some signed by "the Beav" (Jerry Mathers) himself. Large cardboard figures of Betty Boop, James Dean, and other icons decorate the walls. My equally nostalgic peers have bid prices sky-high for 1950s school lunch boxes, featuring the likes of Howdy Doody and the Lone Ranger; Decades sells authentic-looking replicas.

A sign on the door announces that no one under eighteen is allowed in the store. I ask owner Bill Krout about it. Krout, who's thirty-seven, fair haired, and intense, launches into a tirade about adoles-

"Their parents just drop them off, and they leave a trail of destruction!" he says. "I just don't have time for it! I'm not a baby-sitter."

With the exception of Birmingham-a place Royal Oak people tend to sniff at as boringly upscale—there are no downtowns in the city's ten neighboring suburbs. So on evenings and weekends, armies of bored teenagers from all over metro Detroit invade the city.

"They've got these nasty little foul mouths," Krout complains. "If their parents knew how they'd talk, they'd ground them until they're forty."

Calming down, he tells me more about the store he and partner Barry Shulman opened twelve years ago. At first, most Decades customers were from Royal Oak, but now they come from all over Michigan, with many ordering through the mail. Lots of Japanese visitors to Detroit come to his store, Krout adds. "They really like Felix the Cat.'

Krout and Shulman are "out" as a gay couple-something that's common in Ann Arbor but still rare in suburban Detroit. Royal Oak also is home to one of the suburbs' first gay bookstores, Chosen Books. I try to look in, but find curtains over the window and a sign barring people under eighteen. A man who says he's the manager says that's because kids are "not ready" for the store's unmistakably graphic selection of books, videos, and magazines. "Let them wait till they're older," he says.

"The drummer for Bruce Springsteen came in," recalls Heidi Lichtenstein of Cinderella's Attic. "I traded him tickets for clothes. Last week, one of the guys from Duran Duran came in. Madonna's stepmother shops for her.'

GREG SOBRAN



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Greg Sobran presents his annual exhibit Dec. 5th through the 13th, at his schoolhouse studio, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Work will include new watercolors and oils from recent trips to Cuba, France, Martha's Vineyard, Key West, and Northern Michigan. Located on the corner of Wagner & Ellsworth roads, 1½ miles southwest of Ann Arbor. For further information call (734) 996-0406.



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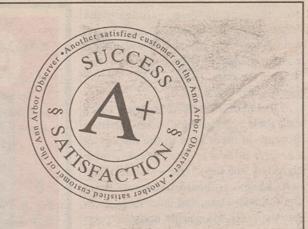


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Sister City

I talk to a couple of customers, one of whom has lived in Ann Arbor and still comes back to visit his former wife. Asked to compare the cities, he says he prefers Ann Arbor: "You meet people from all over the world there." It's also more tolerant, he says. In Royal Oak, he's had friends who were turned away from apartments because they were gay. "That would never happen in Ann Arbor."

Bill Krout defends his city. It has an active gay neighborhood association of 300 residents, he says, and the climate is liveand-let-live. Krout says that he personally has encountered only a couple of problems—one neighbor refuses to speak to him, and kids will occasionally stick their

heads in the shop's door and yell "faggot."

> "Erotic, abstract, chaotic, paramount"

A brochure put out by the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce lists the city's most famous, or infamous, store, under "Clothing & Accessories." The cryptic description of Noir

Leather reads "erotic, abstract, chaotic, paramount." Whatever. Handcuffs are the top-selling item, says owner Keith Howarth, with riding crops a close second.

I find the Noir Leather presentation of S&M accessories both campy and creepy. The window display shows a female mannequin's legs bound with electrical tape. The store's artfully arranged displays include G-strings, studded dog collars, black lace undies, leather boots, message T-shirts ("Slut," "Bitch Goddess"), and buttons with messages like "No, thanks, I have a vibrator and it works." A friend who's tagged along with me says, "Here's something called a virtual reality sex kit.'

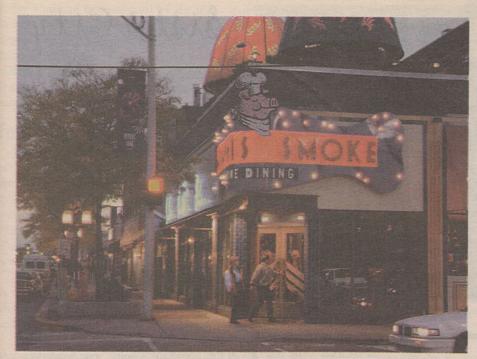
Keith Howarth, the store's owner, is long haired and has an androgynous, youthful look (he's forty-four). His eyes are bloodshot, but he's soft voiced and sociable; it's a stretch to connect him to his merchandise, which in past years has included swastika adornments and a Ku Klux Klan handbook (he stopped selling it after he was picketed by Wayne State students a few years back).

Howarth opened Noir Leather in December 1983. "I brought in a lot of openminded people to Royal Oak-arty, creative people who didn't fit into the system so well," he says. Tonight, though, his browsers are mostly teens. The kids come from Troy, Grosse Pointe, Macomb, Novi. "What's your downtown like?" I ask the Troy kid, who's wearing a T-shirt that reads "Suburban Delinquent." "It doesn't have any," he says.

Nichole Carter and Andy Buck, two seventeen-year-olds from Waterford, roam the aisles. She's in an all-black outfit with chains around her neck; he's wearing black vinyl pants and shiny green and black Doc Martens. Nichole says she be-

tax deductible

Amer Express



Like Ann Arbor's downtown, Royal Oak's is being overrun by restaurants—more than two dozen have opened in the past ten years.

gan hanging out in Royal Oak "like when I was twelve or thirteen." What's Waterford like? "Uneducated white trash," she answers. When she's there, Nichole says, she listens to music, "wishing I wasn't home."

Soon after my visit, I hear that Noir Leather, amid a lot of publicity, has closed. Keith Howarth told reporters that he had to leave because he couldn't afford the high rent. However, in mid-November, I find out that Howarth has reopened Noir Leather at a smaller store (the former Vintage Noir) he owned on Fourth Street.

"The politicians, the council and the mayor, they want the city to go real corporate," Howarth complains. "It's pretty much like 'rape Royal Oak, take what you can."

Choking on success

Exaggerations aside, I've caught Royal Oak when it's starting to choke on its own success. In the past five years, downtown rents have tripled and restaurants have started to move in en masse—there are forty now, up from thirteen in 1988. The resultant parking crunch can be horrendous—but so far, the city's response has been not to build more parking lots but to issue more tickets.

That sounds a lot like Ann Arbor—as do the downtown merchants' complaints that draconian parking enforcers are driving away their customers.

Royal Oak City Manager Larry Doyle responds that the city played mean cop

only because of merchants' previous complaints that parking enforcement was too lax. But, store owners insist, they never asked for anything like this: within a three-year period, the number of parking tickets issued doubled from 2,400 a month to 4,800

Heidi Lichtenstein of Cinderella's Attic believes that the "parking nazis" help to explain why she's seen business plunge this past year. "It's not like it used to be," she says. "People cannot survive on Friday and Saturday nights. The city screwed itself."

Like Ann Arbor, Royal Oak is grappling with issues of growth and change. In both cities, people are grateful that their downtowns have survived the malls—but also feel a growing discomfort about their city's new role as a kind of restaurant mall for surrounding communities. Royal Oak residents miss stores that sold, not leather jackets or replica Lone Ranger lunch boxes, but ordinary things like sewing needles and aspirin. "The city has got to be more than a theme park," says resident Debbie Campbell, unconsciously echoing an increasingly common lament about Ann Arbor.

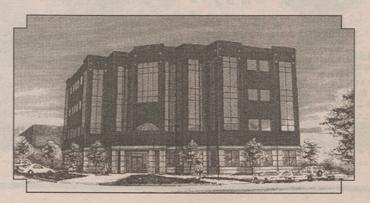
Angry meeting

Campbell has emerged as a neighborhood activist in an effort to control construction of new housing near downtown. I meet her and a lot of other passionate locals at an emotional meeting in the senior center building, several blocks from downtown.

"The politicians, the council and the mayor, they want the city to go real corporate," complains Noir Leather's Keith Howarth. "It's pretty much like 'rape Royal Oak, take what you can.'"



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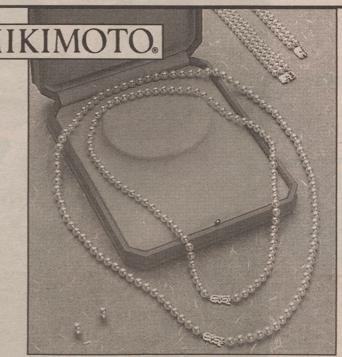


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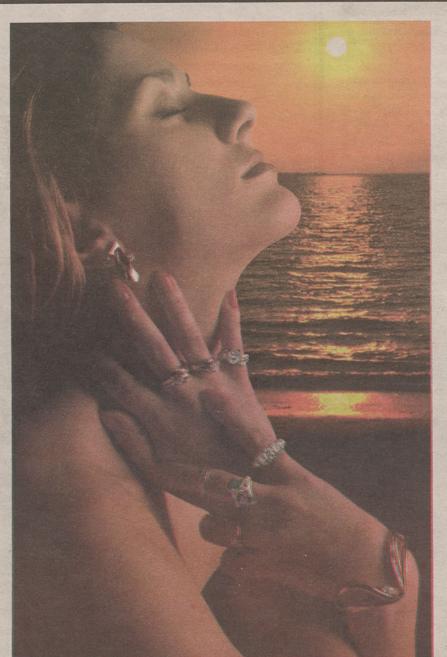


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Sister City

The September meeting concerns Royal Oak's attempts to revise its thirty-yearold "master plan," which outlines how the city will channel future growth. Campbell and others are alarmed about possible changes that might make it easier to put condos and businesses into residential neighborhoods near downtown.

Everyone at the meeting seems to want to grab the mike for a minute or two. People sound angry, frightened, and protective of the city-often fiercely so. "I don't see what you're doing to preserve our neighborhood!" yells one guy to the mayor, Dennis Cowan. Lots of people contrast Royal Oak with its presumably inferior neighbors. "Here we have a beautiful midwestern small town . . . right in the middle of this horrid metropolis!" one woman explodes, to loud applause. "I didn't buy a home in Madison Heights. I bought a home in Royal Oak because it is Royal Oak," a man shouts.

Unlike angry citizens' meetings I've attended in Ann Arbor, most people just speak their mind, rather than reading a prepared speech. When one older woman shouts that she doesn't want more "yuppie assholes" moving into the neighborhood, several people gasp and the woman across from me covers her mouth. "I'd hope we could keep this clean enough to listen to the tapes," Mayor Cowan responds.

Shades of Ann Arbor's battle over the fate of the National Guard armory a few years back, which pitted a condo developer against homeless advocates who wanted the building for a shelter (the condos won). Such fights over "redevelopment" are the shape of things to come in both cities-and on this issue, Royal Oak is well ahead of Ann Arbor. We're just reaching the point Royal Oak's been in for decades, where essentially the entire city

The 1990 census put Royal Oak's population at 65,000, down almost one-third from its peak in 1965. It's not like Detroit, where entire neighborhoods have been abandoned, but the number of people occupying its miles of bungalows and ranch houses is now much smaller than at the peak of the Baby Boom. With households shrinking and no place left to build, any significant growth in Royal Oak will have to come by rebuilding existing neighborhoods-a process that pits present residents against new urbanites eager to live near downtown.

For the newcomers, the attraction is what urban planner Thomas Barrie, in a recent study of Royal Oak, called its "sense of place." Downtown Royal Oak is unique amid the "ubiquitous, anonymous suburban sprawl that surrounds it," Barrie notes. "People drive for miles just to walk

People drive for miles to walk the streets of Ann Arbor, too. A "sense of place," in fact, is probably the most important thing the two cities have in common. But although they are both places-not just houses sharing space with strip malls-they are very different places. Ann

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Arbor's culture is dominated by the university, with the academic influence evident in everything from politics (liberal) to fashion (minimal). Royal Oak's tone is suburban and consumerist: it's still under the spell of Detroit, still celebrating the suburbs' love affair with wheels.

forever cruising

On the Saturday night Amy and I visited Woody's, I'm struck by the number of motorcycles parked on the streets, sometimes five in a row. I find out, though, that weekends are actually off hours for the "Easy Rider" crowd. Wednesdays and Thursdays are the bikers' big date nights

"Wednesdays is Harleys and Thursdays is motorcycles in general," explains Dave Hutzley of Dave's Comics. "They just park and hang out."

Until recently, Hutzley had a branch store in Ann Arbor. "Ann Arbor is a lot more laid back," he says when asked how the cities compare. "People aren't as image conscious." On the other hand, his Royal Oak store attracts a much broader clientele than he saw in his store near the U-M campus: "The majority of our customers in Ann Arbor were definitely college students," he says, but in Royal Oak he sees "everyoneschoolkids, teenagers, lawyers. They're five

Hutzley, who's lived or worked in Royal Oak since 1974, says he can remember "when there was only two bars downtown." Now, he says, "when the sun goes down, it becomes the party mecca of the tri-county area." But he isn't impressed with the motorcycle crowd. "It's a lot of 'being seen,' I think," he says. "You have a bike that gets ridden on Wednesday nights to Royal Oak and gets parked the rest of the week."

Whatever its source, the appeal of the bikes is widespread. "You've got everyone from Jewish dentists in West Bloomfield to factory workers from Pontiac," says Bill Krout of Decades. And the motorcycles are only a tiny part of Royal Oak's obsession with mobility. Woodward Avenue, which forms Royal Oak's southwest limit and cuts through its northwest side, was the main artery of Detroit's postwar youth culture. Talk to the city's aging Baby Boomers, and you'll find that youthful nights spent cruising Woodward still live on in a sort of golden collective memory.

Smiles cross the face of former cruisers as they recall that era. "Gas was nineteen cents a gallon," says Laura Harrison, a Royal Oak city commissioner. "You'd drive down Woodward Avenue meeting friends, meeting new people, finding dates." Favorite stops were Ted's, the Totem Pole, Suzy Q Fish & Chips. Standing behind the counter of her downtown needlepoint store, Harrison, a grandmother, easily recalls a former boyfriend-or rather, the former boyfriend's car, "a black Chevrolet with blue trim."

During the summer, she continues, she and her friends would cruise every night of the week. The guys drag raced and showed off; the girls did a lot of giggling. Asked if other drivers on Woodward found the teens a nuisance, Harrison replies, "We never noticed. You've got to remember so much of the area wasn't built up. Anything north of Birmingham was country."

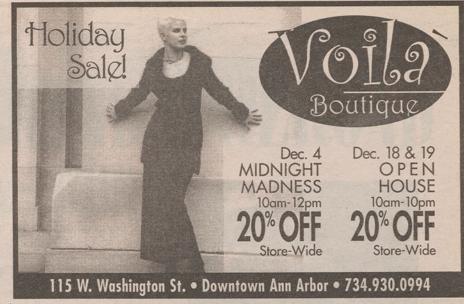
The power of these long-ago rides lives on in the extraordinarily popular Woodward Dream Cruise, held each year on the third weekend in August. What the Art Fair is to Ann Arbor, the Dream Cruise is to Royal Oak-and more, because the Cruise has a gut-level, emotional appeal. This year, an estimated half million visitors showed up for events that included a parade of yesterday's cars down Woodward (plus a lot of today's less dreamy models). Amid the spectacle, fifty-year-old men gleefully relived their youths, squealing tires and leaving patches of rubber on the asphalt.

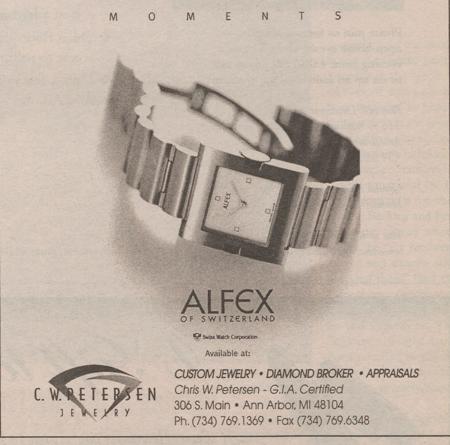
Ann Arbor, too, has its nostalgic motorheads-they turned out in droves at last summer's Rolling Sculpture car show downtown. But our public policy efforts are more likely to feature buses, bicycles, and alternative-fueled vehicles than parades of old cars. And as car buyers, we're much less devoted to Detroit than our neighbors to the east. Kathy McPhail, a Royal Oak resident turned Ann Arborite, recalls that she couldn't believe the number of imports on Ann Arbor streets when she first moved here.

Asked about Royal Oak, Ann Arbor's mayor, Ingrid Sheldon, who admits to a competitive streak, mentions that her Royal Oak counterpart, Dennis Cowan, works for the law firm that is representing Pall-Gelman in its litigation against the city. More diplomatically, Sheldon says, "There's room enough in the metropolitan area for both-I'm just happy that it [Royal Oak] isn't any closer."

But if Royal Oak and Ann Arbor aren't perfect soulmates, they are sister cities nonetheless. Two eclectic siblings, they stand out in a region increasingly dominated by anonymous subdivisions. When I arrived in Royal Oak, I felt I was somewhere—just as I did when I returned home to Ann Arbor.

Downtown Royal Oak is unique amid the "ubiquitous, anonymous suburban sprawl that surrounds it," writes urban planner Thomas Barrie. "People drive for miles just to walk its streets."









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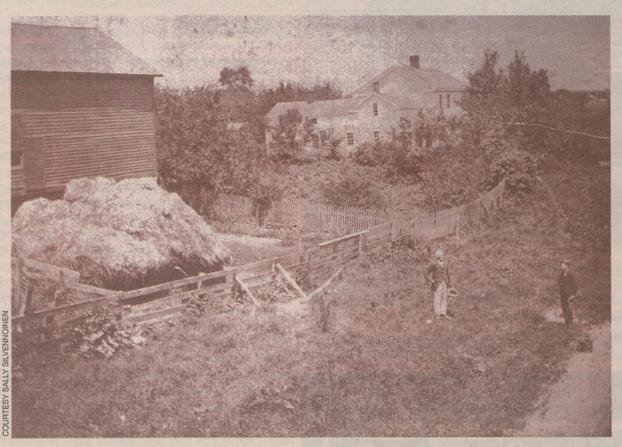
he Signal of Liberty was the weekly newspaper of the Anti-Slavery Party of Michigan. "This place" was Ann Arbor, where editor Guy Beckley produced the paper from an office on Broadway. The Signal of Liberty was one of a series of Michigan papers that in the years before the Civil War called for the abolition of slavery in the United States. On May 12, 1841, it also provided a rare glimpse into Ann Arborites' practical efforts on behalf of escaped slaves: an arti-

cle by Beckley and Theodore Foster recording an escape on the Underground Railroad.

"Believing as we do that it is morally wrong to continue our fellow beings in involuntary servitude, it is with the utmost pleasure that we aid and assist them in their flight from southern kidnappers," Beckley and Foster wrote. They described the fugitives as "from twenty-one to thirty years of age—in good health and spirits and apparently much delighted with the prospect of a new home, where the sound of the whip and clanking of chains will no longer grate upon their ears and mangle and gall their limbs."

According to a follow-up story on May 19, the escaped slaves successfully completed the final leg of their journey to freedom in Canada. "We take great pleasure in announcing to our readers that they have all landed, as we intended they should, safe on British soil," Beckley and Foster wrote. Today's Canada was still a group of British possessions then, and slavery had been abolished in all British territories eight years earlier, in 1833. In Michigan, slavery was illegal, but slaveholders still had the right to apprehend escapees; in what is now Ontario, however, the attorney general had ruled that any person on Canadian soil was automatically free.

That promise made Canada the destina-



In the years before the Civil War, a handful of local abolitionists helped fugitive slaves make their way to freedom in Canada.

tion of choice for blacks who escaped slavery in the South. The Underground Railroad was a network of sympathetic northerners who helped the fugitives on their way once they reached the free states. There are several stories about the origin of the Underground Railroad's name, but all point to situations in which slave hunters had been hot on the trail of fugitives, only to have the prey disappear as completely as if they had gone underground. Extending the metaphor, the escapees were referred to as "passengers" or sometimes "baggage," while the helpers along the way were "conductors" and the stopping points "stations."

Susan Hussey, the daughter of Battle Creek conductor Erastus Hussey, explained in a 1912 interview, "Passengers over the Underground Railroad were of one class—fugitive slaves. They traveled in one direction—toward Canada. There was no demand for return trip tickets."

Two of the railroad's "lines" crossed in Ann Arbor, and from the Signal of Liberty article and other sources we know that fugitives passed through here on their way to Canada. But beyond that, there is much we do not know and probably never will.

Of the millions of slaves held in the southern states, only a tiny fraction escaped to freedom. There is no record of how many reached Canada; the generally accepted figure is about 40,000. Yet this comparative handful of people played a critical role in bringing the tensions between North and South to a head. It was one thing for northerners to know in an abstract way that southerners kept slaves. It was quite another to be compelled by federal law to send fellow human beings back into servitude.

"Worse than horse thieves"

A very early act of the U.S. Congress, in 1793, set down procedures for identifying escaped slaves and returning them to their Historical puzzle: sources disagree on whether John Geddes (hat in hand) was a "conductor."

"owners." As the abolitionist movement gained strength in the North, a number of states passed laws intended to hinder enforcement of the federal "fugitive slave" law. Nonetheless, helping a slave escape remained a federal crime until 1864.

Presumably for that reason, Beckley and Foster were vague about where the "six brethren" stayed and exactly who assisted them. Had the helpers been caught, they would have faced fines or jail sentences. The fugitives would have been returned to slavery in the South, where they

would probably have been severely beaten in a warning to other slaves.

Beckley and Foster also knew that their neighbors in Ann Arbor were divided over abolition. An Anti-Slavery Society was formed in 1836, and some religious groups, particularly Quakers and Wesleyan Methodists, were devoted to the cause. Ann Arbor's First Congregational Church was founded in 1847 by former members of First Presbyterian, who broke away in part because they wanted to take a stronger stand against slavery. But there was also a significant number who were not supporters of the cause.

"Our neighbors accuse us of being worse than horse thieves,' because we have given to the colored man a helping hand in his perilous journey," Beckley and Foster wrote. "We are also held up as transgressors of the law and having no regard for the civil authority."

As late as 1861, a speech by Parker Pillsbury, a noted abolitionist, was broken up by a mob. Speaking at a church at 410 North State Street (still standing, the building is now a private residence), Pillsbury had to escape out a back window, followed by his audience. The attack so unnerved other area churches that most of them closed their doors to another antislavery speaker, Wendell Phillips, when he came to town later that year. (The Congre-

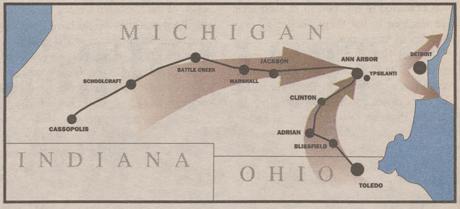


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UNDERGROUND RAILROAD continued



gationalists agreed to let him speak, but only after a special vote of the trustees.)

Despite those mixed feelings, no record has been found that Ann Arbor residents ever returned a fugitive slave. Slaves were in more danger from their former owners, and from bounty hunters, who sought to collect large rewards for their capture. The situation worsened after 1850, when a new Fugitive Slave Act was passed. It swept away all due process for blacks accused of being runaway slaves, increased penalties for helping escapees, and made it a crime for local law enforcers not to return slaves.

Even free blacks, of whom there were 231 in Washtenaw County in 1850, were not safe from the slave hunters. Laura Haviland, an abolitionist from Adrian, wrote about one such case in her 1881 memoir, A Woman's Life. In the 1840s, Haviland writes, she helped a fugitive couple named Elsie and William Hamilton. The Hamiltons left Adrian after their former owner appeared and tried to recapture them, moving to several other places, including "a farm near Ypsilanti for a few years." According to Haviland, the Hamiltons had left Ypsilanti by 1850, but their former owner, believing they were still there, sent his son north to capture them. The son didn't find the Hamiltons, but he did find a family of free blacks, the David Gordons, who came close to the description he had of the Hamilton family. Claiming the Gordons were the Hamiltons, the slave owner's son demanded their arrest. Antislavery activists helped the Gordons confirm their freedom.

Paths to freedom

Most of the fugitives who passed through Michigan came from states directly to the south. (Slaves escaping from the more easterly southern states could go through Pennsylvania and New York, or on a ship along the coast.) "The fugitives came from various localities in the slave states, but most of those who passed on this line were from Kentucky, some were from Missouri and occasionally from the far south," reminisced Nathan Thomas, the conductor from Schoolcraft, south of Kalamazoo, in a letter he wrote in 1882. In another 1841 article, Foster and Beckley mention a fugitive "from the lead mines of

The line Thomas was referring to went east and west across the state, roughly along the route of today's I-94. Fugitives usually came north from Quaker settlements in Indiana to Cassopolis, near Niles,

where there was another Quaker settlement. They then traveled east through Battle Creek, Jackson, and Ann Arbor. A north-south route came from Toledo (where James Ashley, founder of the Ann Arbor Railroad, was an active member) to Adrian, an important hub where Haviland and a group of fellow Quakers ran a school, the Raisin Institute, for students of all colors. Refugees traveled from Adrian to Clinton and thence through Saline to Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti. From Washtenaw County, fugitives went on to Detroit, where they would cross the Detroit River at night in rowboats. Later, when the Detroit River was too closely watched, the route shifted northward to cross the St. Clair River

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By the time the fugitives hooked up with the Underground Railroad, they would have done the hardest part by themselves: getting out of the South. "Their travel with some rare exceptions was entirely by night and generally on foot until they passed from the slave to the free state," wrote Thomas. "[They] generally received friendly aid to only a limited extent from persons residing in the slave states. But success depended mainly upon their own efforts. They obtained food at night from the Negro quarters during their passage through the south."

Once fugitives arrived in free states, help was easier to get, although they still had to avoid bounty hunters. "They did not bring much property with them; and their clothing was generally barely sufficient to cover them from suffering. The most destitute cases were relieved by their friends after their arrival in the free states," Thomas recalled. Stations were at intervals that could be covered on foot in one night, usually every fifteen or sixteen miles. There conductors could hide the refugees or arrange for others to do so, feed them, and see to their passage to the next station.

Slaves had been escaping during all of their captivity, but the number rose after the War of 1812, when returning soldiers spread the word about how close Canada was. According to Thomas, the line he worked on did not help its first fugitive until 1836. "The second [fugitive] in the fall of 1838 came from the far south through the Quaker settlements in Indiana," Thomas wrote. "He spent the winter with old father Gillet [Amasa Gillet of Sharon Township] in Washtenaw Co. and went to Canada the following spring. Others followed and the underground railroad was gradually established through the state." According to Thomas the line had no overall president, but the management was entrusted to one person in each area. He went on to list them, including Guy Beckley in Ann Arbor.

Erastus Hussey of Battle Creek, interviewed in 1885, explained that he was recruited as a conductor in 1840. He named the other major conductors on his line, including those in Washtenaw: "At Dexter we had Samuel W. Dexter and his sons. At Scio was a prominent man, Theodore Foster, father of Seymour Foster of Lansing. At Ann Arbor was Guy Beckley, editor of the Signal of Liberty, the organ of the Liberty party [an antislavery party that ran candidates in 1840 and 1844], who published the paper in connection with Theodore Foster. At Geddes, was John Geddes, after whom the town was named and who built a large flouring mill there."

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Turning to secondary sources, we can add more names to the list of participants. Starting in 1892, Wilbur Siebert, a professor of history at Ohio State, interviewed as many survivors of the Underground Railroad as he could find. His 1898 book, The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom, includes a list of stationmasters by county. For Washtenaw he lists, besides those already mentioned, Moses Bartlett, Ira Camp, Joseph Fowler, Jotham Goodell, Harwood, John Lowy (probably the aforementioned John Lowry), and Ray. Chapman's 1881 History of Washtenaw County adds more: Asher Aray, Richard Glasier, James Morwick, Sylvester Noble, Russell Preston, and Eber White.

Twentieth-century sources in newspapers, articles, and oral traditions include still more names and places, but many of these are not verified—and people's very fascination with the railroad is largely to blame. Its history combines the drama of life-and-death pursuit with reassuring images of interracial cooperation and white resistance to slavery. Because the idea of the Underground Railroad is so compelling, many stories have been told about it that appear to rest on little more than imaginative speculation.

History and myth

In Ann Arbor's onetime black neighborhood north of Kerrytown, it's common to hear that the Brewery Apartments at the corner of North Fifth Avenue and Summit Street were a stop on the Underground Railroad. Twenty-five years ago, there was even an unsuccessful campaign to locate a museum there. Yet, no ninehave arisen when neighbors noted the cellars extending from the building in the direction of the Michigan Central tracks, and speculated that they might have been dug to smuggle fleeing slaves to and from passing trains. Though escaped slaves occasionally traveled by train, the extensive cellars were built for a much more mundane purpose: storing beer.

There are many similar stories, in which a family tradition or a physical quirk in a building is cited as evidence of participation in the Underground Railroad. Most are probably groundless. When it comes to the Underground Railway, "unfortunately it seems very clear that there's a lot more mythical belief than reality,' EMU historian Mark Higbee told the Ann Arbor News in 1996.

"The Underground Railroad is the sort of thing that in the 1880s and 1890s people liked to say they were involved in, or their parents were involved," adds another historian, John Quist. "It's just hard to find contemporary verification and there's a lot of embellishment going on."

The Underground Railroad did exist. Clearly, escaped slaves passed through Washtenaw County, and some were helped by people here. However, it is impossible to go much farther with definite details of when they came, who they were, where they went, how many there were, or where they ended up. Reconstructing the local Underground Railroad is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle when some pieces are missing and the remaining pieces can be put together in several different ways.

In evaluating the historical evidence, first-person accounts written at the time are assumed to be the most accurate source of information. Unfortunately, because of the railroad's clandestine nature, few records were kept. In rare cases, conductors kept notes and hid them, but none have been found in Washtenaw County except for some references in the Signal of Liberty, which are intentionally obscure.

Next in value are accounts written by participants after the fact, including those of Hussey, Thomas, and Haviland. Written many years after the events described,

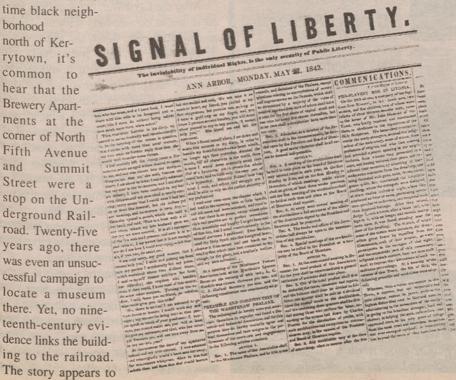


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Last in the order of reliability are stories passed on by word of mouth and deductions based on physical evidence. But while such stories in themselves prove nothing, they should not automatically be assumed false, either. Like Bible stories used to prompt archaeological digs, they can help direct research in useful ways, even if the original tale is not confirmed.

With specifics so cloudy, trying to assess the size of the Underground Railroad locally is largely guesswork. No nineteenth-century source tried to estimate how many fugitives were helped in Washtenaw County. The nearest number comes from Erastus Hussey, who claims in his memoir to have helped about 1,000 fugitives who reached Battle Creek.

Some of the people Hussey assisted presumably stayed in the free black communities of mid-Michigan. Most, however, would have continued east through Washtenaw County on their way to Canada. Since an unknown additional number arrived by the southern route, it seems reasonable to take 1,000 as a working figure for Washtenaw County as well.

The movement was at its peak from the mid-1830s to the mid-1850s. Dividing the 1,000 figure evenly over that twenty-year period suggests that an average of fifty escaped slaves a year may have passed through Ann Arbor with the aid of the Underground Railroad. But who helped them, and where did they stay?

Conductors on the railway

He was considered by many to be at least a very eccentric character, but as history has shown since, it was the entire American nation that was more eccentric than good, old John Lowry.

-Judge Noah Cheever, describing a Saline farmer active in the Underground Railroad

After the Civil War, many people wanted to claim connections with the Underground Railroad. When the railroad was active, however, only individuals with strong convictions and considerable courage were prepared to aid escaped slaves in defiance of both social convention and federal law. So it's wise to view the lists of local participants compiled after the fact by Siebert and the county history with some caution. Whether from boasting, forgetfulness, or confusion, some names on the lists may be inaccurate. At a minimum, though, they provide a picture of the people who were believed in the late nineteenth century to have been part of the Underground Railroad.

Dr. Charles Lindquist, director of the Lenawee County Museum, has done a lot of research on his county's role in the Underground Railroad. He suggests the best strategy to identify participants is to "find corroborating evidence-if they lived in places supposedly involved, if they were



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Fugitive slaves may have hidden in Samuel Dexter's southern-style mansion.

Quakers, if they subscribed to the Signal of Liberty, if they were active in the Anti-Slavery Society.

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"It was definitely illegal, so they were very secretive," Lindquist adds. "It was impossible for there to be just one place [for fugitives to stay in each town]. They'd have to have different places, not a pattern, or they'd get caught." Lindquist also notes that it would have been easier to hide in the country than in town.

The list below is an educated guess about the local participants in the two Underground Railroad lines that passed through Washtenaw County, compiled through use of the Siebert and county history lists and Lindquist's rules of thumb.

The East-West Route:

Amasa Gillet: When fugitives entered Washtenaw County from the west, Gillet's farm in southern Sharon Township may have been their first stopping point. Nathan says that Gillet sheltered the second person to pass down this line of the railroad. The 1881 county history calls him "an anti-slavery man" and concurs that "his house was known as a station on the 'Underground railway.'" Gillet was active in the Anti-Slavery Society and was an important member of the local Methodist church.

Samuel Dexter: The founder and namesake of Dexter village is identified as a conductor by Erastus Hussey. Local Quakers enjoyed the irony that the Dexters could entertain visitors on the porch of their southern-style mansion while hiding fugitives inside. The Dexter house, known as Gordon Hall, still stands on Dexter-Pinckney Road just outside the village.

Theodore Foster: Foster's antislavery work is well documented. A schoolmaster and store owner in the hamlet of Scio, where Zeeb Road crosses the Huron River, Foster was an active member of the Anti-Slavery Society, was editor with Guy Beckley of the Signal of Liberty, and was named as a conductor by Hussey. In the 1950s, Foster's grandson, also named Theodore, set down a story he had heard from his father, Seymour, about a game of hide-and-seek when Seymour was a boy. "Some youngsters ran into the basement and attempted to tip over an oversize barrel or hogshead," Foster recounted. "Upon doing so, they were much surprised and frightened to discover a colored man

squatting there. The frightened children ran to their mother with tales of their discovery and Mr. Foster's children became aware of the meaning of their father's night rides and calls by strangers at the back door. They often heard someone knock at the door after dark and their father would hitch up the horse and be gone most of the night." The Foster home is no longer there.



Eber White: A farmer and one of the founders of Ann Arbor's First Methodist Church, White (above) lived on what was then the western edge of the city. According to the county history, "in slavery days [he] was a prime mover in the underground railroad, and many a slave after reaching Canada has thanked God for the help given him by Eber White and his trustworthy friends." White's house at 405 Eberwhite (on the corner of Liberty) has been replaced by a modern house; the land he farmed is now the neighborhood around Eberwhite School.

Sylvester Noble: The county history says that Noble was a member of the Underground Railroad, as does his obituary, which states that "during the days of slavery his sympathies were strongly engaged on the side of the oppressed and his house was frequently made a station on the underground railroad." His home at 220 West Huron is no longer standing.

James Morwick: "During slavery days he was a prime mover in the famous Underground Railroad," according to the county history. An architect, Morwick lived at 604 East Washington, in a house that is now a student rental.

Robert Glazier: Glazier (sometimes spelled Glasier) "was considered one of the best 'conductors' on the route," accord-







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ing to the county history. "He has assisted in passing many a slave into Canada where they would be safe from their cruel master. His 'route' lay from Ann Arbor [east] to Farmington and on one occasion he made a trip to Adrian with William Lloyd Garrison." Supporting evidence is that Glazier was a member of the Michigan Anti-Slavery Society and a devout Quaker. Glazier's house, which began as a log cabin, still stands at 3175 Glazier Way.



John Geddes: Hussey names Geddes (above) as a conductor. His role was challenged almost as soon as Hussey's 1885 interview appeared, however, when an Ypsilanti newspaper article asserted that Geddes "never had anything to do with it [the Underground Railroad]." Historian Quist, whose U-M doctoral dissertation looked at antislavery efforts in Washtenaw County, found no record that Geddes was an active abolitionist.

However, Geddes's claim is reinforced by both oral history and physical evidence. Francis Monaghan, who worked for Geddes as a farmhand and bought the property in 1885, passed on to his descendants stories he heard from Geddes about his involvement in the Underground Railroad. Monaghan's great-granddaughter, Sally Silvennoinen, today lives in the Geddes house at 4479 Huron River Drive. She says that there was a hidden room in the basement, accessible only through a longgone trapdoor in the living room, that may have been used as a hiding place.

Guy Beckley: Beckley published the Signal of Liberty from an office in the Anson Brown Building on Broadway (which today houses the St. Vincent de Paul store). His home, just a few blocks away at 1425 Pontiac Trail, is the Ann Arbor structure most identified with the antislavery cause; it's where school buses stop on historical field trips. A specific spot for hiding fugitives has never been found in his house, although a back part has been torn down. It's possible that because Beckley was so publicly identified with the Underground Railroad, fugitives were hidden elsewhere if a danger was perceived. An ordained minister, Beckley moved to Ann Arbor in 1839, remaining active in the abolitionist cause until his death in 1847.

Josiah Beckley: Guy's brother Josiah, a farmer and brick maker, was supposed to have played a less active role in the antislavery movement, helping mostly with

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funding. He ran a general store in the Anson Brown Building, and his two Ann Arbor houses are strong possibilities for Underground Railroad sites:

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1317 Pontiac: Former owner Fran Wright says her deed research established that Josiah Beckley bought the land in 1835 and probably built the house the next year. Present owner Jack Kenny says that there is a hiding place at the back of a downstairs closet big enough for three or four people. Jerry Cantor, who grew up on the north side, said that when he was a boy he was told that fugitive slaves hid in the barn on this property.

1709 Pontiac: Former owner Deborah Oakley says that her deed research established that Josiah Beckley bought the land in 1827, the year he came to Ann Arbor, and built the house sometime between 1831 and 1843. Josiah probably built the house in the late 1830s, moving there from 1317 Pontiac. We know he resided there when he died in 1843. Present owner Martha Wallace says there is a false wall in the basement "made with brick the same generation as the house—old and crumbly" that may have concealed a hiding place for fugitive slaves.

The Southern Route:

Prince Bennett of Augusta Township is not mentioned in any of the nineteenthcentury accounts of the Underground Railroad, but a strong oral tradition suggests that he was a conductor. Barbara McKenzie, Bennett's great-granddaughter, says that she was told that "Underneath his front porch there was a trapdoor that led to a room where you could put runaway slaves." Bennett, whose home on Tuttle Road no longer stands, certainly was an abolitionist: a founder of Augusta's Evangelical Friends Church, he was active in the Anti-Slavery Association, and his obituary describes him as "a prominent antislavery man of olden times.

John Lowry: In 1899, Judge Noah Cheever, who had been in Ann Arbor since 1859, published a book called Pleasant Walks and Drives about Ann Arbor. Cheever recommended stopping at the farm of John Lowry [probably the John Lowy listed in Siebert], explaining that 'Mr. Lowry's house was one of the stations to the underground railroad and he assisted a great many slaves on their way to Canada. . . . Mr. Sellick Wood, lately deceased of our city, told me that when he was a young man he drove a number of loads of fleeing negro slaves from Mr. Lowry's home to the Detroit River and saw that they were safely carried across to Canada." Lowry's house, now gone, stood on the west side of Ann Arbor-Saline Road, near Brassow.

The route to Canada

From Ann Arbor, the next stop to the east was Ypsilanti. A. P. Marshall's Unconquered Souls: The History of the African American in Ypsilanti includes a discussion of the city's involvement in the Underground Railroad. Marshall says that George McCoy transported fugitives in wagons with false bottoms and gave them shelter in his barn, while Helen McAndrew hid them in either her octagon house

or her barn. Both of these homes have been torn down. "The only house we can absolutely verify is the Norris house," Marshall says. Mark Norris lived at 213 North River Street and was a prominent early settler whose role in the Underround Railroad is documented in letters retained by his family. Others have suggested that fugitives were hidden in Ypsilanti's black church, but Marshall is doubtful. "The church was in an old livery stable and didn't have a basement. It's the first place [slave hunters] would look."

Going north out of Ann Arbor, up Pontiac Trail from the Beckley houses, or straight north from the Geddes and Glazier houses, fugitives would pass the hamlet of Salem. While no contemporary evidence has been found that Salem residents aided the fugitives, The History of Salem Township, published in 1976, lists seven possible Underground Railroad sites, based on older documents and stories told by local residents. The hamlet's support for abolition is indisputable: in the 1840 election it led the county in voting for the antislavery Liberty party, giving the abolitionists sixty-three votes, compared with fifty in Ann Arbor and twenty in Ypsilanti.

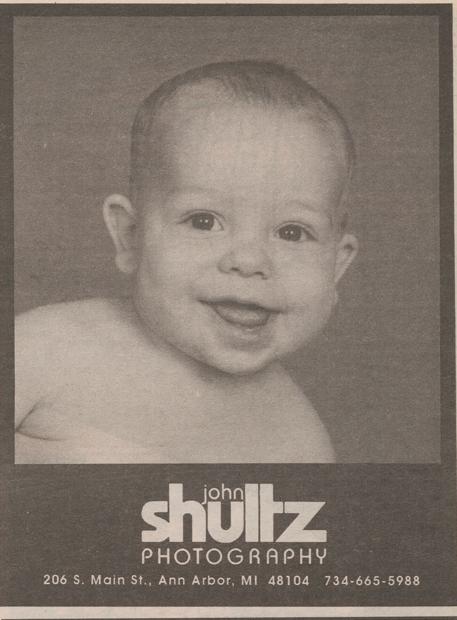
From Ypsilanti, the former slaves originally traveled east through Plymouth, River Rouge, and Swartzburg to Detroit. When that route became too closely watched, the line shifted northward, passing through a string of towns—Northville, Farmington, Birmingham, Pontiac, Rochester, Utica, Romeo, Richmond, and New Haven—on the way to the St. Clair River. Finally, the fugitives were smuggled across to Canada by boat.

Living legacies

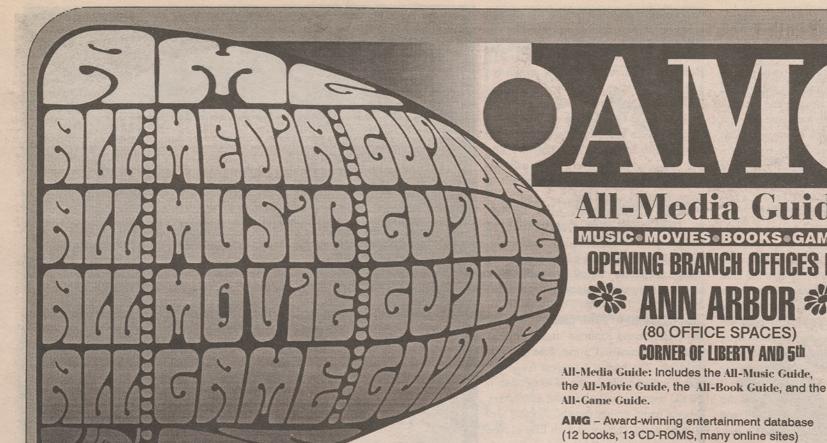
It is estimated that 40,000 former slaves and their families were living in Canada at the time of the Civil War. About half of them eventually moved back to the United States. They came over a period of decades to rejoin family, to return to a warmer climate, or to pursue jobs or education. In her memoir, Laura Haviland mentions a former slave named John White who after emancipation "removed to Ann Arbor, Michigan to educate his children."

Many Ann Arbor families trace their descent to these black Canadians. The local black Elks Lodge, according to member William Hampton, "was formed by a group mostly from Canada." Several well-known historic figures, including Charles Baker, co-owner of the Ann Arbor Foundry, and Claude Brown, who ran a secondhand store in the Main Street building that now houses Laky's Salon, came to Ann Arbor from Canada.

At least three Ann Arbor families have connections with North Buxton, a remarkable settlement in the middle of southwestern Ontario, near Chatham. North Buxton was founded in 1849 by William King, a minister who married the daughter of a southern plantation owner. When King's wife inherited her family's fifteen slaves, King freed them, buying land in Canada for them to resettle. They became the nucleus of a black community whose residents grew a wide range of crops, owned and operated businesses, ran hotels, organized churches, and published a newspa-







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Guy Beckley, Josiah's brother, lived at 1425 Pontiac. The Signal of Liberty documents Beckley's aid to fugitives.

per. Their schools were so good that white people from neighboring communities sent their children there. And they claimed a number of firsts, including the first black Canadian elected to public office.

Ann Arborite Ruth Spann's great-aunt came from North Buxton, and Lydia Morton's great-grandfather lived in nearby Fletcher. Viola Henderson's great-aunt, Mary Ann Shadd Cary, ran a school in Windsor for black refugees. After the passage of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act made life more dangerous near the border, she moved inland to North Buxton, where in 1853 she became the first black woman in North America to edit a weekly newspaper. After the war, she returned to the United States, where she was the first black woman to graduate from Howard University Law School.

Dwight Walls, pastor of the Greater Shiloh Church of God in Christ in Ypsilanti, is descended from John Freeman Walls, a former slave from North Carolina, and Jane Walls, the white widow of his original master. The Wallses escaped the South, reached Canada by boat from Toledo, and settled in Puce, Ontario. Dwight Walls's grandfather moved to Detroit to work after World War II, but his family still has many Canadian connections. He reports that a number of black Ypsilantians have Canadian roots, including the Bass, Perry, and Kersey families, as well as the Grayer family of his mother.

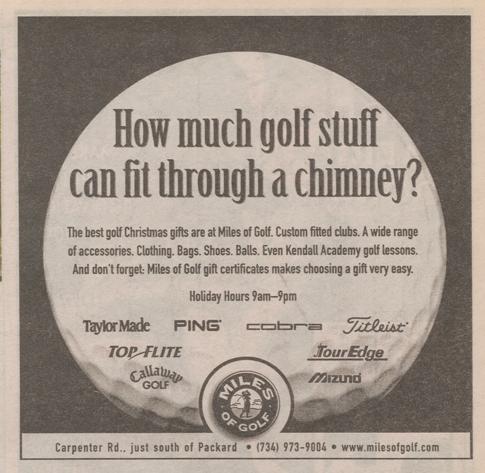
Descendants of the original settlers still live in North Buxton, although only two families still farm and the children go into Chatham for school. Artifacts from the original settlement, including King's bed and many photographs, can be viewed in the Raleigh Township Centennial Museum. In Puce, Walls's cousins run the John Freeman Historic Site and Underground Railroad Museum, which includes the log cabin his ancestors lived in and the graveyard where they are buried.

Amherstburg, where many fugitives arrived by rowboat, honors their place in black history with the North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre. These and several other sites-including the homestead of Josiah Henson, the man believed to be the model for Uncle Tom in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin-form the African-Canadian Heritage Tour.

Sites in Michigan are harder to find. In Battle Creek, the store where Erastus Hussey once hid runaway slaves is gone, its place noted by a historical marker. Another marker tells the story of the Merritts, a Quaker family who hid slaves. In nearby Schoolcraft, Nathan Thomas's house still stands. Privately owned, it is periodically opened to the public. In Cassopolis, there's a historical marker on the former site of the Quaker meetinghouse, once a key center for fugitives entering from Indiana.

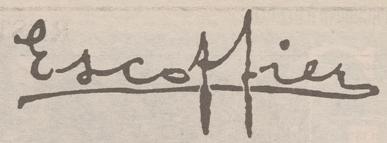
Researchers A. P. Marshall and Charles Lindquist, and Mary Butler, archivist for the Historical Society of Battle Creek, all speak of the frustration of working with such ephemeral evidence. But more information may come to light through a U.S. Parks Service project to identify and mark Underground Railroad sites. In Michigan this program is run out of the secretary of state's office, and a state coordinator is soon to be hired. Butler is pleased that "more scholarship is being applied" and also that the researchers "are half black and half white-it's a cooperative effort."

The period of slavery is an enormous blot on American history. The Underground Railroad was a heartening exception, in which people of all races worked together to help slaves to freedom. Retelling the story, we celebrate the courage and ingenuity of those who escaped, the kindness of both blacks and whites who helped them on the their journey, and the ability of the fugitives to start life over in Canada-and, for many, yet again in the United States.









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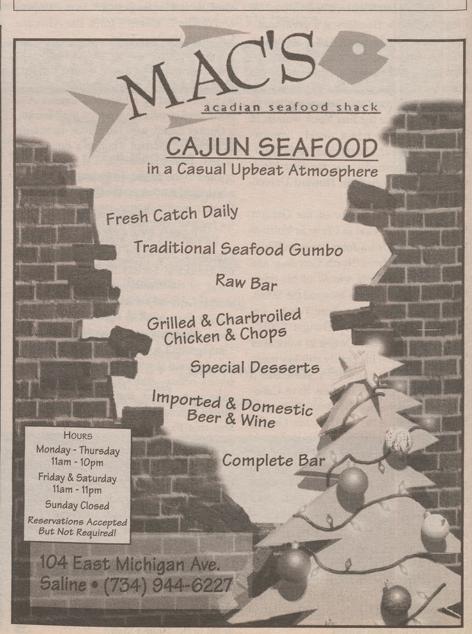
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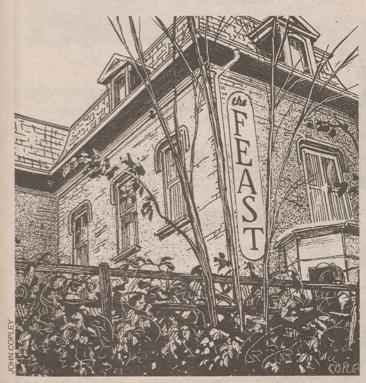
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RESTAURANTS



Moveable Feast

Bustling

f you want to go to the Moveable Feast any time soon, better make your reservations now. The once subdued west-side eatery is bustling—the dining room's packed, people are eating dinner in the bar, and the upstairs rooms, once rarely opened except for private parties, are now in almost constant use. "I have a lot of people who mention how long and how often they've been coming here, hoping I can work them in, and I still can't accommodate them," says manager Christina Batten regretfully.

I found this out for myself when I called on a Monday, hoping for reservations on Saturday. No way. I settled for a reservation almost three weeks away. The restaurant is able to be more flexible on weeknights-I got a table at 6 p.m. on a Thursday with very little advance notice.

The Feast's revitalization is a credit to its new owners, Carol and Dan Huntsbarger, who bought the restaurant in July 1997. The Huntsbargers have freshened the decor and broadened the menu's focus to include internationally influenced dishes. You can still get the Feast's signature rack of lamb and sourdough baguettes, but you can also get tuna sashimi, Hawaiian-style mahi mahi, and Indonesian couscous.

The Feast has a newly expanded list of wines by the glass, but we started with cocktails instead. Cold, astringent martinis were the perfect accompaniment to our chilled shrimp bedded on a soy chili sauce with a side of wasabi cream (\$8) and spice-rubbed, pan-seared tuna served with pickled ginger, a dab of wasabi, and a soy/mirin sauce (\$10). The tuna used to be an entree, but Dan Huntsbarger, who heads up the kitchen, was dismayed by the number of diners who would order it medium to well done. Tired of trying to longer possible to eavesdrop on the next

convince them otherwise. he moved it to the appetizer section, where he serves it a gorgeous, sushilike rare. Don't argue about it. It's perfect.

On another visit we tried more traditional appetizers: the pâté du jour (it was a heady truffle the night I visited); escargot stewed with shallots, garlic, and wild mushrooms in Marsala (\$9); and a wonderful morel mushroom risotto served with a fan of thinly

sliced duck, fresh plums, and a savory fruit chutney (\$11). With these, a ripe, opulent 1995 Franciscan Oakville Estate cabernet was just right (\$35).

The house salad is an interesting combination of baby greens, fried beet threads, dried fruit, and a maple-cranberry vinaigrette. It sounds sweet and sticky, but it's surprisingly light and refreshing. For an additional \$5 or \$6, you can substitute a gingered romaine salad with shiitake mushrooms and sesame seaweed, or an autumnal warm goat cheese salad with red lentils in a balsamic vinaigrette.

The rack of lamb is still excellent; this fall's version features a pecan rosemary crust and is served on a bed of pan juices seasoned with rosemary and merlot (\$31). Boneless duck breast, stuffed with foie gras mousse, moistened with shiitake mushroom gravy, and served with a wild rice pilaf of dried cherries, apples, and pecans (\$25), was like a gourmet Thanksgiving dinnerno matter what I do with this year's turkey, it's going to pale in comparison.

My dinner companions argued amiably over who got to finish my pork. It was good stuff, just overabundant: two big, thick loin steaks rubbed with garlic and pepper and served with braised red cabbage, adorable miniature squash, and a Jack Daniel's bourbon sauce (\$23). My favorite dish was a lovely, subdued whitefish lightly seasoned with coriander and bedded on a clam reduction sauce infused with apple and celery juice (\$19). It was served with a yummy potato and apple puree.

Longtime regulars who are having trouble getting in might be unhappy about the Feast's new popularity, but me, I'm happy to see the place so busy. It makes for a warm, convivial atmosphere, and I don't feel so much need to speak in low, hushed tones. Too bad the gentle hubbub shelters my neighbors' conversations as well as my own-for me, the only drawback to the Feast's newfound vitality is that it's no table. That, and I have to remember to get my reservations in early.

-Laura McReynolds

663-3278 The Moveable Feast 326 W. Liberty

Mon.-Sat. 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Afundi's Cafe

Undiscovered gem

fundi's Cafe had the misfortune to open last year when coffee shops were popping up downtown like weeds after a rainstorm. I watched its construction from my perch at the Old Town and often remarked with a world-weary glance: "God, how many more does this town

But Afundi's-you may be as surprised to learn as I was-is not that kind of cafe. When I finally crossed Ashley to check it out, I found a fabulous Middle Eastern restaurant that also makes a strong showing as a breakfast and sandwich place.

So far, it's seriously undiscovered by everyone except the weekend breakfast crowd, which may partly explain why the service is so prompt and the portions so generous (as in, what else do they have to do and where else are they going to unload all that food?). But the fresh and distinctive cooking sings. Grilled, marinated meats; rice fragrant with cardamom and saffron; nutty falafel and baba ghanoush (hummus's slightly more interesting cousin, with eggplant replacing the chickpeas); and bright, lemony salads—they all taste like the well-honed, favorite recipes of someone who was expecting you to arrive at just that moment.

Afundi's is the family business of Effat and Ahmad Fayyad and their son Andy. Andy agreed with me that his mom makes the best baba ghanoush in town. Can I float this theory in Ann Arbor and get away with it? Middle-aged women do the best home cooking. I stand by that onejust don't send me any tiresome hate mail.

You can't go wrong with anything Middle Eastern here. I tried three entrees and liked them all: chicken shawarma (grilled marinated chicken, \$8.95); kufta kebab (a sort of grilled, homemade sausage of lean ground lamb and beef, \$8.95); and lamb shish kebab (\$9.95). Entrees come with a choice of two sides (rice, hummus, salad, and so forth) and a pile of pita bread. Many Middle Eastern dishes also are available in sandwich form for about half the price, and they're generous. It's all perfectly prepared, though I find chicken the least interesting foil for Middle Eastern spices: they enhance the dark meats, and they transform grains and vegetables, but chicken just lies down and dies.

The menu also offers a range of delitype sandwiches, some Mediterranean-influenced, some not. I tried a Zingerman'ssized "Taste of Italy" (\$5.39) with fresh mozzarella cheese and juicy tomato slices, slathered with pesto with whole pine nuts. It was grilled to crispy oiliness. If you like garlic, and "garlic spread" doesn't already come with your meal, make sure you ask for it on the side. The blend of pulverized raw garlic and yogurt will knock you out and probably take down a few innocent bystanders as well.

The place does a perfectly creditable breakfast, too, mainly omelets with Mediterranean fillings and French toast made with Ed's bread. My omelet was folded around a filling of hot feta, fresh spinach, and olives just starting to melt together (\$5.29). It came with spicy ovenroasted potatoes, an elegant alternative to the hash browns served at the Fleetwood next door. Breakfast is also a perfect opportunity to discover the Middle Eastern fruit juice tradition. Two bucks buys you a pint of blended fruit concoctions. My favorite mix was pineapple/peach, but a peach smoothie and freshly blended apple juice were nearly as good.

Afundi's has apparently recognized that it is miscast as a cafe and has recently changed its hours, closing and opening earlier to cover the three main meals better. I wish those hours were posted somewhere on the door. Go for a meal, and go

-Sonia Kovacs



Afundi's Cafe 304 S. Ashley

665-0770

Tues.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Mon.

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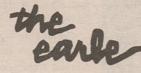
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MARKETPLACE

SKR goes global

While Schoolkids' regroups in exile

By the time Schoolkids' Records closed its doors at the end of September, relations between owner Steve Bergman and his former employee, Jim Leonard, were strained. Leonard had bought Schoolkids' sister store, SKR Classical, from Bergman in 1997, and Bergman was hoping Leonard would buy the ailing Schoolkids' too. But after months of negotiations, the deal fell through.

Now, the two men are running rival record stores within a block of each other. At the end of October, Leonard opened two new stores, SKR Pop & Rock and SKR Blues & Jazz, in the former Schoolkids' Records space on Liberty. Bergman, meanwhile, sold the Schoolkids' name to a small group of investors and is now managing two mini—record stores for them, one inside Oz's Music Environment and the other in the basement of Elmo's Supershirts on State Street, with a third store planned inside Collected Works on Main Street. The



(L. to r.) SKR Blues & Jazz manager Al Campbell, owner Jim Leonard, SKR Pop & Rock buyer Thom Jurek, and Pop & Rock manager Matt Woods.

square feet of carpet to expose the building's original terrazzo floors, and painting the walls a fresh-looking white. When the retail doldrums hit in January, he plans to shut the stores down for a major renovation. "The blues and jazz side is going to look like a cross between Stonehenge and the Amazon rain forest," he says. "There's

ally obscure imports, and we're still going to go after that, but we're also going to try and move the marketplace forward and fill all the holes."

At Schoolkids' Records in Exile, Bergman is selling off the remainder of his old inventory, as well as stocking what he calls a "modest but eclectic collection of music." The locations at Oz's and Collected Works will carry only about 1,000–2,000 titles, but the State Street location is more ambitious, with plans for upwards of 5,000 CDs.

Bergman sees the State Street store as the Schoolkids' discount clearinghouse; at Oz's and on Main Street, titles will be full priced and geared toward the local buyer as well as the restaurant-going, tourist crowd. "I'm pretty enthusiastic about it," he says. "You can come down here to Elmo's and you'll see best-sellers like the new Jonny Lang or Cake, but we also have the esoteric stuff."

While Schoolkids' on-site inventory will be modest, it will be supplemented by the 80,000 titles Bergman plans to offer by special order either in person, by E-mail at steve@schoolkids.com, or through the Schoolkids' Records website. Bergman predicts prices for these recordings will be at least as attractive as in "real-world, brick-and-mortar stores."

Unlike Leonard, Bergman is trying to get by with minimal staff. He'll be doing most of the buying himself, with an assist from local deejay Alberto Nacif, who hosts WEMU's Latin music show *Cuban Fantasy*, and WDET's Matt Watroba, who will be advising Bergman on Schoolkids' folk selections.

The Elmo's location may be temporary—owner Elmo Morales has put the entire space up for lease so that he can concentrate on his Main Street store—but Bergman remains philosophical. "We hope

"The blues and jazz side is going to look like a cross between Stonehenge and the Amazon rain forest," Leonard says. "There's going to be Yggdrasil, the tree of life in Norse mythology, growing up out of the center of the floor; we're going to have the entire ceiling covered by vines..."

new owners are calling the stores Schoolkids' Records in Exile.

Leonard not only has the old Schoolkids' location, he's also hired eight out of nine former Schoolkids' employees, including Sean Westergaard, now the blues and jazz buyer, and onetime Metro Times arts editor Thom Jurek, who will handle the pop and rock buying. Al Campbell, the former manager of Tower Records' blues and jazz department, will be managing SKR Blues & Jazz. Matt Woods, a former University of Michigan Hospitals patient records department manager, will be running the pop and rock side. "He doesn't have any specific record store experience," says Leonard, "but he's a guy I think can really get it done."

Leonard has big plans for the interiors of his new stores, but since he wanted to get them up and running before the holidays, he settled for clearing the space out, unblocking the windows, removing 5,000

going to be Yggdrasil, the tree of life in Norse mythology, growing up out of the center of the floor; we're going to have the entire ceiling covered by vines; there'll be stucco—of course, all these plans are subject to change depending on how much money I have to spend."

Leonard wants to turn the pop and rock side into a futuristic fantasy that he describes as "like downtown Tokyo in the year 2020. It's going to be hot lights at the front, cool lights at the back, and instead of having posters on the wall, we're going to try projections. It's going to be very cool."

As for the inventory, Leonard says that it will be "better, fresher" than it was in the Schoolkids' days. "If you went to the jazz section before, you could see tons of really cool, really obscure discs," he explains. "We'll still have those, but we'll also have the complete Miles Davis catalog. Schoolkids' has always had a national reputation for having really cool stuff, re-





Happy New Year!

Manitaria me Filo Wild mushrooms and goat cheese wrapped in filo, baked and served on a bed of porcini-cream sauce

Spicy Sweet Potato Hand Roll Baked sweet potato spiced with chipotle peppers and ground peanuts, rolled with fresh sunflower sprouts, cucumber and chives in a cone-shaped nori "hand roll" Lentille Paysan Warm, savory lentil salad on a bed of wilted spinach, with a roasted plum tomato and herb dressing

Torta de Calabacita Silky smooth, slightly sweet baked summer squash pate, served with creme fraiche
SOUP/SALAD

Roasted Vegetable Consomme A richly flavored broth made from oven-roasted leeks, carrots, celery, porcini mushrooms, parsnips, onions and garlic Sweet Potato-Pear Soup A creamy, delicately sweet soup of pureed sweet potatoes and glazed pears with cream, white wine and a hint of cinnamon Mesclun Salad Fresh, organic baby lettuces and bitter greens, with dried cherries and roasted pecans

Caesar Salad Organic romaine, parmesan and croutons tossed with housemade Caesar dressing

Crepes de Sarrasin Buckwheat crepes filled with chargrilled wild mushrooms, red onions, red and yellow peppers, zucchini and yellow squash, with wild mushroom-cream sauce, served with grilled Haloumi (a fresh, brine-cured Middle Eastern sheep's-milk cheese) Butternut Ravioli Housemade ravioli filled with baked butternut squash and caramelized onions, tossed with fresh herb-infused olive oil and roasted hazelnuts, served on a bed of swirled red, green and yellow roasted pepper sauces Bauerlich Grille Chargrilled portabella mushroom, marinated in olive oil, sherry and fresh sage, served with sauteed snow peas and a baked goat cheese flan topped with a sauce of dried cranberries and Gewurtztraminer

Clay Pot-Roasted Winter Vegetables Hearty winter vegetables (potatoes, parsnips, celery, carrots, butternut squash, onions, mushrooms, sweet potatoes) oven-roasted in a clay pot with olive oil, dill, thyme and bay leaves, served with wild rice, a vegan bordelaise sauce, and asparagus and roasted red pepper baked in puff pastry

Poached Pear with Creme Anglaise Fresh Bosc pear poached in syrup, covered with a rich, custardy creme anglaise

Tiramisu Luscious dessert of whipped marscarpone layered with Kahlua- and espresso-soaked ladyfingers, garnished with bittersweet chocolate curls

Chocolate-Raspberry-Hazelnut Torte Rich vegan chocolate torte topped with raspberry preserves and roasted hazelnuts

Lemon Sorbet

New Year's Eve \$19.99/person



Steve Bergman offers a "modest but eclectic collection of music" at Schoolkids' in Exile.

to be at Elmo's at least through February," he says. "But if it doesn't work out, it's just inventory. Since we're in exile, we can pick up and move pretty quickly."

SKR Blues & Jazz, 523 E. Liberty,

SKR Pop & Rock, 529 E. Liberty, 827-2340.

Hours for both stores: Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Schoolkids' Records in Exile, inside Oz's Music Environment at 1920 Packard, 662-8283, Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.; inside Elmo's Supershirts at 306 S. State, 663-7248, Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.-6 p.m.; and inside Collected Works, 317 S. Main, 995-4222, hours undetermined at press time.

Levy's turns into the Lonely Hearts Club

The Beatles-themed restaurant is the life's ambition of a Flint firefighter

ome little boys want to be firemen when they grow up. Martin Juarez, now a professional firefighter in Flint, wanted to open a Beatles-themed restaurant.

"I was only five years old when the Beatles broke up," Juarez explains, "but my aunts and uncles were really into it, so I got into it, too. I've spent my whole life collecting Beatles memorabilia. I've always dreamed of opening a restaurant that celebrates the music.'

Juarez's dream comes true this month, when he plans to open the Lonely Hearts Club in the former Levy's ArtCafe space on East Washington. A part-time musician-he plays percussion for a folk-rock band called the Original Brothers and Sisters of Love-Juarez hopes the Beatlesthemed restaurant will become a second career after he retires from his twenty-year career with the fire department at the ripe age of thirty-nine. Until then, Juarez will be working his regular nine days a month for the department. When he's on duty in Flint, his mom, Sandra Alex, will help run the Lonely Hearts Club.

Juarez says the very British decor will be centered on the memorabilia he's collected over the years, including some Ann Arbor-specific items like an original poster from the John Sinclair rally at which John Lennon and Yoko Ono performed, and the original contracts the two performers signed for the event. There'll be video monitors playing rare Beatles footage, and music from Juarez's extensive record library. On the weekends, the restaurant will feature live music from local bands. "They can play original music, that's fine," Juarez says, "but I want them to open and close with a cover of a Beatles song.'

Juarez insists that you won't have to be a Beatles fanatic to enjoy the Lonely Hearts Club. "There's stuff for the diehard fan," he says, "but it'll also be fun for people who are just into nostalgia, or who want something to eat in an interesting at mosphere. We're going to have very good homemade food. It's not going to be jus the theme."

Fellow band member Jamie Mongel who's cooked for Sweet Lorraine's and the Old Town, heads up the kitchen, which wil serve fish and chips wrapped in copies o the London Times, burgers, soups, salads and sandwiches, many of them with names loosely based on Beatles tunes (do I hear a chorus of "Yellow Submarine"?). In tribute to the Beatles' Apple record label, apples will be prominently featured among the desserts. Juarez, whose grandmother used to own a Mexican restaurant called La Palma in Flint, will also serve the occasional Mexican dinner special based on family recipes.

Juarez plans to hold occasional Beatles memorabilia auctions and raffle off some of his collection in order to benefit his favorite charities, the American Cancer Society and the Salvation Army. "I think people will definitely take away that this isn't some big corporate fat cat saying, 'Hey, let's just make some money off the Beatles," he says. "This is a guy who's loved them his whole life."

The Lonely Hearts Club, 211 E. Washington, phone unavailable at press time. Probable hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. till midnight. Closed

Local retailers grow at Traver Village

Kitchen Port and Crown House expand

n 1967, Julia Child was the star of public television's popular The French Chef. Graham Kerr was about to debut as the Galloping Gourmet. Suddenly, people didn't have to go to culinary school to learn to make coq au vin, vichyssoise, quiche Lorraine, or pot au feu-all they had to do was watch TV.

Of course, all this fancy cooking demanded equally fancy equipment: crepe pans, fondue pots, soufflé dishes, copper sauté skillets-none of it easy to find in the days before shopping malls and mail order catalogs. "You didn't have Briarwood back then, or any place to buy really good cookware," recalls Kitchen Port president Roberta Shrope. "The people who opened Kitchen Port felt there was a real need."

Kitchen Port started out in 1967 in the basement of the triangular building in the wedge of Detroit Street and Fifth Avenue. Two years later, the store moved to the brand-new Kerrytown shopping center, first downstairs in the Luick Building and then to a larger space upstairs, eventually taking over the entire second floor.

Shrope says the store quickly became a community resource, not only for topquality cookware but for cooking advice as well-and it still is. "We get all sorts of calls: questions about recipes, about substitutions, what time the Farmers' Market opens, what's the name of that Japanese restaurant across the street," she laughs. "We even have a great reference catalog here, so that if we don't carry something, we can still help people find it. We're more than happy to help.'

This fall, Kitchen Port celebrated its twenty-ninth anniversary by opening a new store in Brighton and moving the Traver Village store from its original 1,500-square-foot location to a new 2,800square-foot spot nearby, where the Pied Piper children's clothing store used to be. Shrope says the company, which is owned by 200 local shareholders, hadn't planned on taking on so much all at once-in fact, there had been no plans to move the Traver Village store at all—but that when Pied



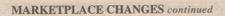




734 / 662.5118









Kitchen Port manager Roberta Shrope had a busy summer, simultaneously expanding the store in Traver Village and opening a new branch in Brighton.

Piper closed, Kitchen Port had right of first refusal on the space. "It seemed like a great opportunity to give our shoppers on that side of town more of the selection they've been asking for," she says.

Over the years, Kitchen Port's stock has continued to reflect popular cooking trends: the French cuisine craze of the 1960s; the 1970s' emphasis on fresh, regional foods, led by Alice Waters of California's Chez Panisse; the gadget-crazy 1980s; the time-strapped and style-conscious 1990s. Shrope says today's shoppers are much more focused on lifestyle and entertaining than they are on functional cookware, and they continue to look for technology to make cooking faster and easier. "People are baking more, but now, your bread rises and gets kneaded in the bread machine, then you put it in a basket that shapes it, just like Zingerman's bread, then you put it on your bread stone and bake it," she says. "They're also doing more decorating in their kitchens. Last year it was little glass frogs. This year, we hear roosters are going to be big."

Shrope says the Traver Village shopper tends to be more item-oriented, coming into the shop with a specific purchase in mind, and that the Kerrytown shopper makes impulse purchases while browsing. It's too soon to tell, she thinks, about Brighton shoppers. "They are a very different customer," she says. "They shop Monday through Friday, very little on Saturday, and almost never on Sunday. But we'll need at least a full year to be able to determine what kinds of things sell best up there."

One thing will probably never change: the influence of television on what customers buy. "If Martha [Stewart] does something on leaf cookie cutters, leaf cookie cutters start walking out the door," Shrope says.

asasas

When Kitchen Port moved south, its old space was up for grabs-but not for long. Its former neighbor, Crown House of Gifts, jumped at the chance to expand its store, boosting the Traver Village card and gift shop to 5,000 square feet.

Tom Ungrodt, whose family owns the store, says they will use the extra space to expand the "social expressions" department-stationery, note cards, party supplies, greeting cards—as well as to carry more picture frames. "We've also got probably the widest selection of albums in town," he says. "Baby, wedding, photo albums, journals. It's a really nice selection."

The new space also gives Crown ample display room for its new Hallmark Connections computerized card personalization system, a sophisticated-looking piece of equipment that customers can use to customize cards, letterhead, and invitations with personalized messages and even photographs at the relatively modest cost of \$2 or \$2.25 per card. "You can design them yourself, put your family picture in there, and away you go," says Ungrodt. "The system is great for Christmas card runs."

In addition to the Traver Village store, the Ungrodt family own Made in America and another Crown House of Gifts, both on State Street; Dayspring Gifts in Chelsea; Crown and Carriage in Jackson; Jones Gifts in Lansing; and Ideation, Inc., a gift catalog and marketing company that supplies gift stores—theirs as well as others across the country. For about a year, the Ungrodts also ran a store called Surroundings Sample Room in the basement of 222 State Plaza, where they sold the samples they'd accumulated for their catalog business at a discount. The store closed just after Art Fair week. "We ran out of samples," Ungrodt jokes. "Actually, we have some interest from someone in leasing the space. If we can find a better use for the space, naturally we'll pursue that."

Kitchen Port, 2619 Plymouth Rd., 930-1950. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

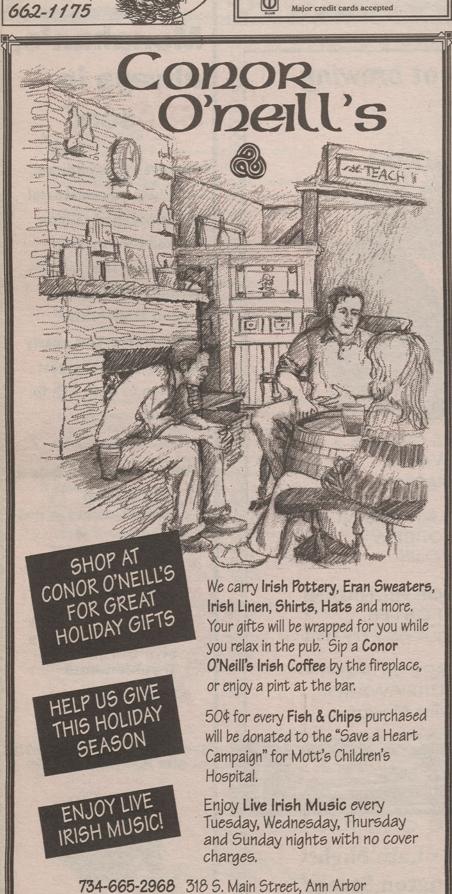
Crown House of Gifts, 2623 Plymouth Rd., 761-2518. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5

Changing the guard

New owners take over at Georgetown Gifts and Top of the Lamp

hen Daniel and Marilyn Harber opened Georgetown Gifts in 1973, Georgetown Mall was made up of only three stores: Kroger, Cunningham Drugs (now Rite Aid), and the Harbers' new card and gift shop. They were taking a chance on the fledgling center, but Daniel, who had plenty of retail experience-he had founded Stadium Pharmacy and sold it in 1971—thought it was a good bet. Even after he died unexpectedly a year and a half later, his enthusiasm for the store kept Marilyn going. "My husband had a great deal of faith in this," she says. "If he thought it was going to work, then by God, I was going to make it work."

And so she did, with a little help from the U.S. Postal Service. In 1980, Green's Cleaners on Packard closed, leaving the post office substation that had been inside Green's without a home. The then-postmaster, Dick Schneeberger, sent a letter out to area businesses inviting them to



TRADITIONAL IRISH PUB

submit an application. His next-door neighbor, Marilyn Harber, called him that night. "I said, 'How much do I have to pay to get this thing?' And he said, 'No, Marilyn, we pay you," she laughs. "I submitted an application and I got it. It did a wonderful thing for the business.'

After twenty-five years, though, Harber was ready for a rest. She put the store on the market last January with an eye toward selling before Christmas. In August, Harber's Pitney-Bowes representative, Laurie Wicks, walked in to renew the post office substation's contract for its postal meter and heard the store was for sale. "I came home and was filling out the paperwork, and it was like a bolt of lightning just hit me in the head and said, 'Laurie, you can do this!" Wicks says. "My resume was not updated; I was not out looking for a career change. But it just felt so right."

It felt right to Harber, too. Wicks was a longtime customer and had lived in the neighborhood for eighteen years; Harber felt the store would be in good hands. Harber plans to stay on to help with the transition over the holidays, but after that, she's moving on to what she says is a well-earned retirement. "I'm going to Hawaii, Florida, and Costa Rica," she says. "I deserve it!"

Wicks is adding some new card lines to the traditional Hallmark and Shoebox Greetings the store carries, as well as broadening her inventory of gifts and youth merchandise, like the Blues Clues line of notebooks, stickers, and accessories based on the popular Nickelodeon TV show for preschoolers; and makeup bags, pencil cases, note cards, and key chains for middle-school-age girls from Sanrio, the company that brought the world the phenomenally popular Hello Kitty. "I want moms in the neighborhood to be able to say, 'Ride your bike up and get Billy a birthday present," Wicks says. "They're all moderately priced for kids' budgets, two to five dollars.

Georgetown Gifts, 2510 Packard, 971-1068. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (until 8 p.m. through the holidays), Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Across town, another longtime local business owner is also turning over the reins. Top of the Lamp's John Inwood has sold his store to Deb Elmore and John Testasecca, owners of Michigan Chandelier, a wholesale electrical supply house.

Inwood opened his first store downtown in 1975 and named it Top of the Lamp because he sold only lampshades and finials (the decorative screw-on pieces that hold the shade in place). The store moved to the small shopping strip at Stadium and Pauline and then settled in its current location on South Maple, across from the new Kroger. Over the years, the merchandise has expanded to table and floor lamps, ceiling fans, and fixtures, but Elmore says the store still does a big business in lampshades and lamp repairs. "We get maybe a dozen lamps a day in for repair," she says. "Ann Arborites like to buy quality lamps and keep them in good repair instead of replacing them."

Elmore started out in the electrical sup-

ply business with Southfield-based Michigan Chandelier and then went to work for its chief competitor. When her new boss reneged on a promise to open another location and give it to Elmore to run, she went back to Michigan Chandelier and talked them into selling her their Ann Arbor store. With characteristic confidence, she also announced she had a partner: John Testasecca, who had worked with her at both companies for many years. After Michigan Chandelier agreed to the deal, Elmore had to break the news to Testasecca. "I called John and said, 'How would you feel about buying a business?" Elmore laughs. "He was a very good sport about it."

Five years after Elmore and Testasecca bought the Michigan Chandelier store, they started thinking about getting into retail. Their interest coincided with John Inwood's growing desire to cut back his hours at Top of the Lamp. "I told him I wanted to open a showroom, and he said, 'Why don't you just buy this one?'" Elmore says. "We made a few offers back and forth, and we finally worked it out."

The new owners hope to nudge the store's focus ever so slightly toward retail. "We'll have Father's Day specials, for instance-lamps with cigar bases, or with golf clubs," says Inwood. "We may also get into accessories more."

Inwood will be staying indefinitely to work the front part of the store part-time, but he's leaving the ordering, marketing, and financials to the new owners. Elmore says she and Testasecca will be working behind the scenes and expect the store's longtime staff to be able to run the store themselves. "I just want to make them be able to do their jobs and have fun," she says. "We're determined that if we're going to spend eight to twelve hours a day working, it's not going to be unpleasant. So we burn scented candles, we put Dum-Dum suckers out on the counters. We're having a good time.

Top of the Lamp, 415 S. Maple, 769-7019. Mon. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Also open Sun. noon-4 p.m. from Thanksgiving through Christmas.)

Briefly Noted

In the sixty-one years since the quirky, angular building on the northeast corner of Huron Street and Fourth Avenue was built, it's been a gas station, a tire dealership, an appliance store, a watchmaker's shop, and the law office of Clan Crawford Jr. When Crawford retired five years ago, he used the space to store his records and to house his growing collection of lush, well-tended plants. Tongue firmly in cheek, Crawford called the place the World Museum of Decorative Horticulture; it wasn't open to the public, but the building's tall, wide windows afforded a lovely view to passersby.

Crawford sold the building last spring to local developer Dennis Dahlmann and divided his plants between his house on Geddes and a second property he bought on Brooklyn, in no small part for its yard. In July, Dahlmann presented a proposal to the city planning commission to demolish



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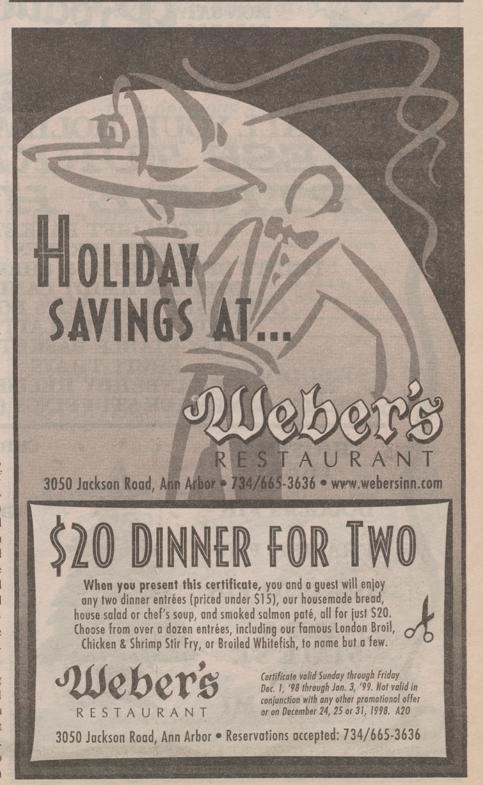
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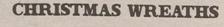
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the building and replace it with a two-level, thirty-seven-space parking lot that would accommodate tenants from his City Center Building at Huron and Fifth, but the city turned him down. Instead, the developer is leasing the space to Steve Fodale and Curtis Sullivan of Vault of Midnight Comix. They plan to open their new store December 1.

The new tenants are thrilled with the space. "We're real excited, and everything's going real well," says Fodale. "It would have been a shame if this place had gotten torn down."

Crawford, surprisingly, voices no such sentiments. "I wouldn't mind a bit if it got torn down," he says. "I think it's a wreck. You've got a lot of history buffs around here that don't understand that not all buildings are the Parthenon. This one was not built for the ages."

Crawford says the building was originally a "taxpayer," something a landowner would quickly erect for rental income to pay the property taxes until conditions permitted a more ambitious structure. For many years, the building was known as Casey's; its main tenant, Casey Jones, ran a Gulf station and Goodyear tire dealership at the east end and an appliance store at the other. "During the 1950s, we used to sneak out of our offices whenever there was a rocket launch and go over to Casey's," Crawford remembers. "He always had about a dozen TVs running, and people would gather to watch."

Built for the ages or not, the building is on a high-profile corner, and Fodale and Sullivan are happy to have the added exposure. Originally they were tucked into 300 square feet in an old house on Ashley. In the new space, almost five times as large, they can expand their selection of small-press comic books and Japanese anime cassettes (high-action animated videos) as well as get into video games and collectible toys. "We've got something for everybody," Fodale says. "Our customers are anywhere from thirteen to fifty, sixty years old. Little kids, too."

One thing Fodale is firm about: he doesn't have a green thumb, and there won't be so much as a fern in the place. "People keep asking us about that," says Fodale. "Definitely no plants."

Vault of Midnight Comix, 100 N.



Steve Fodale, Curtis Sullivan, and friend.

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Demi Moore has probably been responsible for selling more potters' wheels than any ceramics supply dealer in the country. One of the most memorable moments in her 1990 movie, *Ghost*, was a love scene in which Moore's character formed a wet, glistening clay vessel with her hands at her potter's wheel. The chemistry between Moore and Patrick Swayze in the scene made the naturally sensuous act of working with clay seem positively aphrodisiacal. A generation of moviegoers rushed out of the theaters and into their first pottery class.

"I've had a number of students mention that moment in the movie to me, and how exciting it was to them," says local potter and teacher Kay Yourist, whose gallery, Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, is simultaneously a working studio, a classroom, and a showroom for her wares. "It's actually a very sensual experience, making pottery."

Until recently, Yourist had to send her pottery students to Flint or Taylor in search of a potter's wheel. But this fall, she decided to start carrying them herself, along with a selection of the wooden sticks, wires, sponges, turning tools, and knives potters use to shape the clay. The tools are inexpensive, but the wheels range from \$549 to \$1,159. Yourist insists they're a safe investment: "They're built to last for a very long time, and people are always looking for a used one, so you'll get your money back if you ever want to sell it."

Yourist suggests that clay attracts students because—aside from the Demi Moore factor—it's a very forgiving medium. "You could put almost anyone in front of a piece of clay and give them a few tips and they could make some kind of vessel," she says. "It's such a rewarding feeling. It's really fun to watch people going through that transformation."

Yourist gets her clay from local clay maker J. T. Abernathy, who buys cleaned and powdered clays from all over the country and mixes them according to his own closely guarded "recipes" (he might blend an especially elastic clay from one region with a shrink-resistant clay from another). Yourist buys the reconstituted, "de-aired" clay in twenty-five-pound bags, thirty or forty bags at a time. Although she says she isn't set up to retail clay and encourages students and artists to go to Abernathy directly, she's happy to sell a bag or two on occasion from her own supply.

Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 722 Packard, 662–4914. Tues.—Sat. 11 a.m.—6 p.m. and by appointment.

202020

Iranian-born Hamid Sadeghnia and Vahid Zaresereshthagh have opened a new pizza place where Domino's used to be on East Ann Street. The newly renovated Da Vinci's looks a little like Domino's—bright, clean, lots of white—but it's serving

pies far more exotic than anything that's ever made it out of Domino's test kitchens: veggies with pesto and provolone; goat cheese and sun-dried tomato; and eggplant pizza with balsamic vinegar, mayo, and olive oil instead of tomato sauce.

A U-M grad in electrical engineering, Sadeghnia got into the business when Zaresereshthagh's original partner backed out in the middle of construction. "He's had the place for months and months, couldn't finish it, and asked me to help him out," says Sadeghnia, who was working at the time as a sales rep for restaurant supplier Sysco. "I didn't like the job I was in, so I said sure."

Sadeghnia is in charge of the kitchen, and he takes pride in the fact that he makes everything—soups, sauces, breads, pizza dough—from scratch. The restaurant sells lot of goat cheese pizzas; Da Vinci's "twisters," which are rolled pizza dough sticks stuffed with cheese, garlic butter, and herbs; and whole-wheat pizza sandwiches called chipati. "I've never, ever seen a chipati in my life, but Vahid told me to make a chipati, so I made it up," Sadeghnia laughs.

The two men have been working 120-hour weeks trying to get their fledgling business up and running, but they're hoping to ease off a bit as soon as they have enough employees. Then they can concentrate on turning the west half of the space, currently blocked off with windows papered over, into a small dining room. "We're ready to go," Sadeghnia says. "We just need the money."

Da Vinci's, 1031 E. Ann, 994-1111. Mon.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 a.m., Sun. 3 p.m.-4 a.m.

Tidbits

The Arborland Toys R Us store will be torn down after the Christmas shopping season. When the new one is built, just behind where the old store is now, it will be designed in the company's new "C3" format: an open, circular area in the center of the store, with small departments branching off like spokes in a wheel. "We're lowering the shelves, lowering all the displays," says Toys R Us spokesman Michael Cullen, "so that if you're standing in the middle, you can see around the entire store. It won't look anything like it does today."

202020

A new Hancock Fabrics sign went up on both the Maple Road and Carpenter Road Minnesota Fabrics stores last month, but according to Maple Road store supervisor Kathryn Bradbury, nothing else has changed. The Minnesota Fabrics group was actually sold over a decade ago to Hancock, which is based in Tupelo, Mississippi. The sewing superstore chain just took a while to change the name.

202020

Boston Chicken Inc. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in early October and announced plans to close 178 of its 1,143



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Boston Market restaurants. When asked if the Ann Arbor store on Washtenaw would be one of them, the manager, who would identify himself only as "John," said, "I was told to make no comment."

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Closings

After thirty-five years in business, Augusta and Jim Edwards are closing their Maison Edwards shop in the Nickels Arcade. Jim has been in poor health for some time, and Augusta wants to spend more time at home in Macon, taking care of him. "Frankly, if the store were doing very well, we could have found somebody to manage it or keep it open," Augusta says. "But the rent is high, and we finally decided, why struggle? Close, let somebody else fight."

The Edwardses met in 1958, when the Italian-born Augusta took a vacation from Switzerland, where she was working, to visit an old friend in Arkansas. Augusta's friend had married the owner of Daisy Manufacturing, maker of toy BB guns, and at a company meeting Augusta met Jim, a Daisy sales representative from Royal Oak. They married a year later. "I didn't plan to stay," Augusta remembers. "I wanted to go back to Switzerland. But he kept me here."

In 1963, the Edwardses opened Maison Edwards, a lovely little shop fashioned after the stores Augusta had known in Europe. Its eclectic inventory is still much the same as it was then: Swiss ornaments, scented soaps, jewelry boxes, walking sticks, umbrellas, chess sets, pewter flasks, leather goods, imported hairbrushes.

Over the years, the Edwardses owned other Nickels Arcade stores: the Caravan Shop, still in business under different ownership at the west end of the arcade; the Van Buren Shop, a lingerie store; and Maison Edwards Tobacconist next door, which the couple sold to longtime employee Chuck Ghawi in 1992. Even when they were running all four shops, Maison Edwards remained the heart and soul of the family businesses. "I have been here every day for thirty-five years," Augusta says. "Never missed one day, except maybe early on, when I used to go quickly to Italy to visit my family."

As familiar a fixture as Augusta was the couple's dog, an endearing tousled puli



Augusta Edwards of Maison Edwards.

named Chicopopo, who would sit just outside the store with a lunch bag in his mouth and welcomed pats from passersby. Chicopopo died seven years ago at age sixteen. "I have another one, but he's not the same," Augusta says. "You cannot put him out there, he must be inside on a leash, because he has a different character."

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Augusta says business has been in decline for several years now, a trend she attributes to the departure of Jacobson's for Briarwood, the transfer of Borders' corporate headquarters—and its 250-some employees—to the south side of town, and the changing face of State Street. "There is not really any shopping area like there used to be," Augusta says in her heavily accented English. "There's all pizza, coffee, T-shirts, little bar, little restaurant."

Another ongoing problem has been parking. "Impossible. Expensive, a dollar an hour," she says. "People say, 'I'm not going to pay a dollar to park to come buy a comb for two dollars.' It is a shame."

Maison Edwards will remain open until the end of December or the first week of January, depending on how quickly Augusta is able to sell off her remaining stock. She's not looking forward to closing the store. "It will be a big adjustment for us," she says. "Very sad."

The Edwardses' fellow Nickels Arcade merchants say they feel sad about it, too. Chuck Ghawi, who started working for the Edwardses in 1985 while he was still in school, says he can't imagine Nickels Arcade without them. "They're an institution," he says. "I'm sad to see them go. They'll really be missed."

202020

Al Purdom and his brother Mike have owned Robey Tire only since January, when they bought it from the Di Donato family and changed the name to Spartan-Robey, but in less than a year, they've gotten an offer they couldn't refuse. In October, the Purdoms sold the building to local commercial real estate company Allen & Kwan.

"The way the whole deal came about, another tire dealer was interested in buying the property," Mike Purdom explains. "I told my brother, 'I have no idea what Ann Arbor real estate is worth,' so we did some research to find out." One of the companies Purdom called for information was Allen & Kwan, who promptly outbid the original buyer.

The Purdoms will continue to run their Spartan-Robey Tire location on Ecorse in Ypsilanti. In the meantime, Allen & Kwan is trying to lease the 1930s-era limestone and glass storefront. The company's flyer indicates its willingness to consider "distinctive offices" or "specialty retail, restaurant, studio, or gallery" tenants.

101010

A reader passed by the Kowalski Kowality Market at Miller-Maple Plaza, found it closed down, and called us to ask what had happened. Phil Maniaci, store manager for Kowalski's corporate head-quarters in Hamtramck, says that the com-

pany closed the Ann Arbor store because of staffing problems and because it was underperforming. Kowalski has ten other stores in the metro Detroit area.

Follow-Up

Five years ago this month, the Changes column reported ten retail and restaurant openings. Only four places have closed: Annie in the Attic, a women's used-clothing store on the second floor of the old Goodyear Building; Bo's Steakhouse, an ill-fated collaboration on Boardwalk between coach Bo Schembechler and former Ponderosa franchisee Bill Taylor; Accessible Art, a cooperative art gallery on South Ashley where Afundi is now; and Flowers on the Parkway, at Village Centre.

December 1993 was a good time for you to open a restaurant—so long as your name wasn't Bo. Four local eateries celebrate their fifth anniversaries this month: Bev's Caribbean Kitchen, on Packard; Ayse's Courtyard Cafe, at the Courtyard Shops; Mark's Midtown Coney Island, on Plymouth Road; and Angelo's on the Side, Angelo's restaurant's take-out location next to the original on Catherine.

Other five-year survivors are **Pictures Plus**, the framing and home accessories shop at Westgate; and **Barnes & Noble** at Washtenaw and Huron Parkway. The bookstore giant will soon face some nearby competition: Borders plans to open a store at Arborland next year.

December 1993 survival rate: 60 percent

101010

One year ago this month, Marketplace Changes featured nine new businesses. Three of them have closed: **B1**, a housewares store at Briarwood whose parent company went belly-up; **Sweet Spot**, the sandwich shop Lily and Tim Kittle briefly ran next to their Lily's Garden flower shop in Kerrytown; and **Day by Day Calendar** Co., a temporary "holiday store" at Briarwood that closed, as planned, after Christmas last year.

The tiny factory-direct showroom of Maggie's Organics/Clean Clothes is still open for business on Saturdays on Pauline Boulevard. Maggie's staffer Cindy Eicholtz says they've added lots of new colors and patterns to their organic cotton clothing line. EB (Electronics Boutique) has settled into its newly remodeled location near JCPenney at Briarwood. Also still in business: National Tire and Battery, on Washtenaw; Dave Bone's new Play It Again Sports locations at the Courtyard Shops and on Carpenter; and the Record Exchange, a used CD store on South University.

December 1997 survival rate: 67 percent

101051

Got a retail or restaurant change? Leave voice mail at 769–3175, ext. 364, or send E-mail to lauramcr@earthlink net.

-Laura McReynolds









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CHRISTMAS PAST

Ann Arbor's Santa Claus

Albert Warnhoff made toys for kids across the state

I magine a painted wooden man, about six inches tall, standing over a log with a bow saw. Next to him stands a little windmill. When you spin the windmill's vanes, the man's arms bend, and he appears to cut the log.

The logger was one of the handmade toys that Ann Arbor's Santa Claus, Albert Warnhoff, once gave to needy children at Christmastime. By the end of his life, in 1962, he claimed to have made 42,000 toys.

Warnhoff worked as a carpenter by day and made toys in his home workshop at night and on the weekends. He was born in 1890 and raised on a farm near Tessmer Road. He quit school young and learned carpentry on the job, first at Gill Lumber and then at Fingerle Lumber, where he worked in the custom mill shop, crafting window frames.

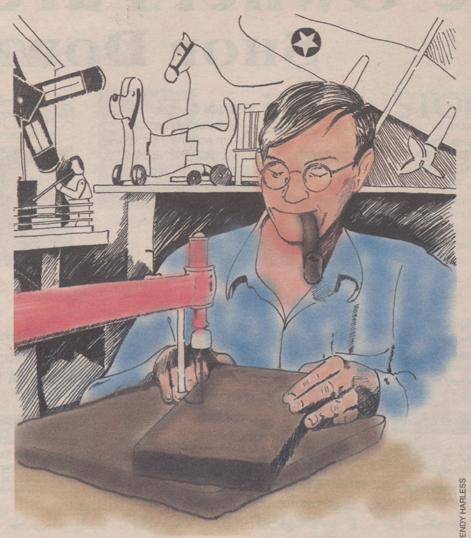
"He looked like one of Santa's elves," recalls Hilda Ward, who also worked at Fingerle's. "He was short and a little round. He was a nice old man, but he was different. He lived in his own little world."

"He was introspective and a loner," says Colin Fingerle, one of the owners of the company. "He wasn't the type to go out drinking with the boys."

Even with family, Warnhoff wasn't very talkative. "He was not outgoing. Fifteen minutes was a long conversation for him," says Bob Pieske, Warnhoff's nephew.

Warnhoff opened up some in his later years, after he had received many honors for his work, including citations from two governors, Harry Kelly and Kim Sigler. He told newspaper reporters that he started making toys at age eighteen when he gave a doll and cradle to a neighbor girl suffering from diphtheria. The doctor later told him that she started getting better as soon as she received his present.

"He started real small," says Colin Fingerle. "He'd turn out a few things and take them up to the hospital-but it kept getting bigger." At first, Warnhoff gave all his toys to local children who were in the hospital at Christmastime. As his production increased, he extended his generosity to children whose parents were on welfare or those who had lost their fathers in World War II. Then he began donating toys to institutions in other cities around the state, such as the Michigan School for the Blind and St. Joseph's Hospital in Detroit. To supply all those children, Warnhoff developed a mass production system, making many copies of one toy and then going on to the next.



Though Warnhoff lived in several houses in Ann Arbor, he spent his most productive years at 1315 Franklin Boulevard on the southwest side. "The whole basement was filled," recalls Pieske, "a tool here, a tool there, band saws, cutout figures. You could hardly walk through, but he knew where everything was.

Warnhoff
"looked like one
of Santa's elves,"
says Hilda Ward,
who worked with
him at Fingerle's.

"He got ideas out of the sky," Pieske says. "He was very smart in what he did. He could make things work. He saw something and said, 'This is what I want to do.' He didn't copy anyone."

Many of Warnhoff's designs, such as wagons and sleighs, reflected his farm background.

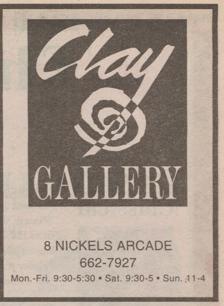
"He did good work," says Fingerle. "In today's world they might seem rudimentary, but they were passed on from generation to generation. They were glued and nailed so they wouldn't come apart."

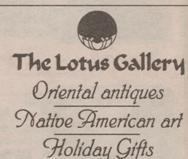
Warnhoff used scrap wood that would otherwise have been thrown out or burned at the mill shop where he worked, but the Fingerles also donated larger pieces of wood to the cause. Muehlig and Lanphear Hardware donated paint, varnish, nails, and glue. Fay Muehlig still has some Warnhoff creations—a duck pull toy, a little chair and table—that Warnhoff gave her daughters in gratitude for their grandfather's contributions.

Service groups, church groups, and other helpful people donated tools and various supplies, as well as dolls to go with the doll furniture Warnhoff made. Young people at Slauson Junior High and the Dunbar Community Center made quilts for the dolls' beds. But Warnhoff always did all the toymaking himself. "He'd finish one year and start the next," recalls Pieske.

Fingerle remembers World War II as Warnhoff's heyday: "Toys were almost nonexistent then. All the metal was used for the war." But since Warnhoff used mainly wood, he could still work. To get around on his calls, he convinced the rationing board to give him extra gas coupons—"enough coupons to substitute adequately for reindeer," as the *Ann Arbor News* explained at the time.

In the last decade of his life, Warnhoff suffered from heart problems. He retired from Fingerle's in 1955, but despite failing health he kept making toys. During his last illness, a grateful public paid his hospital bills, returning his years of kindness with \$3,000 in donations. —Grace Shackman





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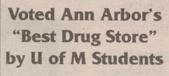


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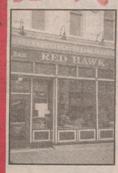
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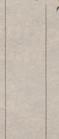


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Thursday • December 3 • 7:00 PM

Dan Piraro, creator of the popular syndicated Bizarro comic strip will discuss his book Bizarro Among The Savages: A Relatively Famous Guy's Experiences on the Road with and in the Homes of Strangers a memoir of his fan-supported and funded Total Mooch Tour.



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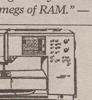
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HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The impractical gift giver

Shopping on the right side of the brain

by Laura McReynolds

y grandmother usually insists she doesn't want anything for Christmas. When pressed, she comes up with dismal gift suggestions like a replacement toilet paper roller-not the entire holder, mind, just the little tube. I hated shopping for her until I finally stopped asking her for ideas and started following my instincts: leg warmers because she always feels cold, colorful button earrings that reminded me of her favorite blouse. She gets a kick out of these unexpected gifts-and I have a lot more fun finding them.

This kind of shopping on the right side of your brain-turning off the logic and list making and letting your gut be your guide-is easier than you might think, especially in a town like Ann Arbor, where there are so many great stores. In fact, when I got this assignment, I quickly found that the hard part wasn't in finding enough to write about, but in winnowing the list down to fit the space available.

Needing all the serenity I could get for the mission ahead, I started at Jewel Heart, the Tibetan crafts shop run by Buddhists on Ashley Street. Near the yak's wool sweaters, I found a triangular blond

wood Zen alarm clock that promised gentle awakenings to the sound of a soft chime (\$100). Perhaps because the day was cold and blustery, I was drawn to a \$39 elegant hardwood and black velvet bellows next door at Downtown Home & Garden. For the same reason, the soft, triple-woven cotton throws from Dream On Futons looked very tempting. They're \$49, and are emblazoned with the images of rock stars like Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, and Jerry Garcia, complete with missing finger (the owner of the store ex-

weights that come in architectural bluestock page versions for \$19.50-just

plains that she's a dedicated Deadhead). Just up Liberty Street, the Conservatory has beautiful tarot cards starting at \$15 for the armchair prognosticator, and incredibly real-looking "crumpled paper" paperprint, yellow legal sheet, and newspaper the right accent for



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much as they do a side shuffle. At Sixteen Hands, I found really cute pillbox hats in a nice chocolate brown or a cheerful lime green for \$33. Either would look great with the adorable Berber fleece box-cut jackets with flip-up collars I saw at Elmo's for \$45. For the unrepentant couch potato, Elmo's also has \$16.95 T-

an overcrowded desk. On Main Street, Arcadian Too has beautiful antique Christ-

on one side; it's \$198.

derer's. Reed & Barton silver-plated baby

spoons and forks with rabbit handles are in-

credibly sweet; they're \$35 and come with a

hundred-year warranty, in case Junior wants

to keep using them well into his geriatric

years. The Peaceable Kingdom is Stocking

Stuffer Central: \$4 miniature metal school

buses, tiny windup chattering teeth for \$2,

50¢ rubber "slugs," and windup jumping

frogs for \$2 that don't actually jump so

mas ornaments starting at \$20 and a

wonderful tricornered decanter made

of Depression-era amethyst glass

with the word rye in silvery script

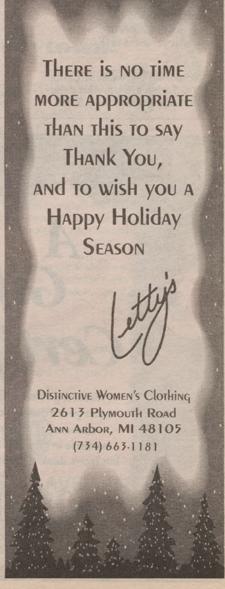
If you spell timepiece R-O-L-E-

X, there's a nice selection of these

top-of-the-line watches at Schlan-

shirts with an upsidedown Nike "swoosh" and the slogan "Just put it off."

Someone would have to be a really good little boy to merit the expensive, Europeancut men's suits at Renaissance. If the man in your life has been only moderately well behaved, treat him to a \$39 Italian silk tie from the sale rack at the back of the store. Across the street, Generations' front win-





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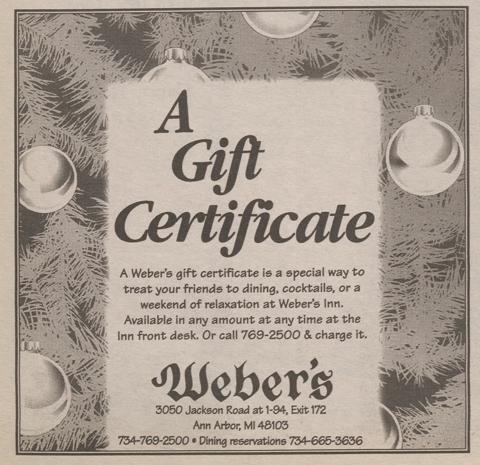
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HOLIDAY SHOPPING



"X-Files" action figures at Fun 4 All.

dow is packed with cuddly plush pups starting at \$10. They also have fabulous hand puppets: a scary-looking mosquito, a Dungeness crab with realistic-looking sprawly legs (prices start at \$12.50).

A camper's "sun shower"—basically a three-liter plastic bag with an attached shower head-looks kind of silly, but take it from someone who has washed her hair in a glacier-fed mountain stream: sunwarmed water is a welcome thing out on the trail. It's \$10.75 at Wilderness Outfitters. They also have ingenious ice shoes with jagged teeth on the bottom. At \$148, they are much cheaper than a visit to the emergency room should you slip and sprain your ankle.

I added a few items to my personal wish list at Ayla: an iridescent rayon and silk jacket for a heart-stopping \$1,000, soft cropped chenille turtlenecks from Italy for \$180, and a fun little item called a Conchi scarf at \$90. It's wine-colored silk on one side and synthetic beaver fur on the other, and is designed to be used as a muffler or worn outside your coat as a fake fur collar.

At Occasionally Gifts, I saw a maize and blue checkerboard with maize and blue helmet game pieces on one side and green and white helmets on the other, for \$19.99. I also found an "M Go Blue" door chime that plays "The Victors"—the box says it can also be used as a pager or an SOS.

After Words always has great deals on publishers' overruns. The stock changes over too frequently to mention specific titles, but I was very intrigued by tiny, twoinch high books near the front of the store called "Miniature Editions." They're \$2.98, and are far too teensy to actually read unless you use a magnifying glass. Very cool, though.

A bag of candy packs perfectly into the toe of a Christmas stocking. Jelly Bellies, \$6.95 a pound from Kilwin's, won't melt, and they come in agreeably weird flavors like kiwi, cotton candy, buttered popcorn, and cafe latte (sorry, no decaf). If you want to fit into the cigar bar scene but don't smoke, pick up a couple of chocolate stogies for 85¢ each.

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You can get the real deal up the street at La Mirage, where a special Christmas package includes a humidor, a leather cigar case, a cigar cutter, and an assortment of twenty-five hand-rolled smokes for \$350. The coolest thing here: a framed original cigar box label for a brand called First Cabinet Cigars. It's \$100, and it depicts George Washington as president meeting with his cabinet. No, none of them is smoking.

Did you know that the Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper? I didn't. Emulate the founding fathers with a \$40 hemp stationery set at Pure Hemp Productions on Fourth Avenue. There are nice hemp jeans here, too, in blue, brown, black, and khaki, for \$45 to \$60. I also saw a tube of hemp lip balm for \$2.50.

"Girls Rule," reads an \$18 T-shirt at Common Language bookstore, where I also found the first out and proud gay doll, Billy. He's available dressed in leather, in a police uniform, or as a construction worker-just like one of the Village People, except he's fourteen inches tall. He's \$49.95 and, according to the box, is "anatomically complete." (I didn't check.)

I can think of no better way to while away a cold, blustery afternoon than reading a cozy mystery. May I recommend Janwillem Van De Wetering? Aunt Agatha's has a nice used collection of his books, which are part mystery, part philosophymakes sense when you know that he used to be an Amsterdam police officer and, later, a Zen Buddhist monk.

Wooden Spoon has more great used books, plus boxes and boxes of wonderful old jazz albums in good condition, \$3-\$6. Those in the know say vinyl is poised for a comeback and insist that it has a warmer sound than digital recordings do-so put your friends on the cutting edge of the old technology with LPs like Benny Goodman's 1938 Carnegie Hall jazz concert, volume one, \$4.

ortified with a strong cup of coffee, I hit Kerrytown like a runner springing out of the starting blocks. Marsh & Fields has cute "animal crossing" signs that look just like the pedestrian version and feature cats, killer whales, skunks, armadillos, and even lobsters, for those neighborhoods where jaywalking crustaceans are an ongoing problem. They're \$4.

Forget the stock market; make your money grow with a \$15 Coinstruction kit from Mudpuddles. It's hard to describe, but basically it's a set of plastic clips and attachments that you use to stack pennies into the shape of a bulldozer, a dragon, a jet, and a hovercraft. I also liked Mudpuddles' four-inch Alien Autopsy figure, \$2, a little green man that stretches into all sorts of weird shapes.

Thomas Hardy once wrote of an ale that "it was the most beautiful color that the eye of an artist in beer could desire; full in body, yet brisk as a volcano; piquant, yet without a twang, luminous as an autumn sunset." Was he imbibing at the time? You be the judge. Now renamed Thomas Hardy Ale in his honor, it's \$4.75 a bottle at Partners in Wine.

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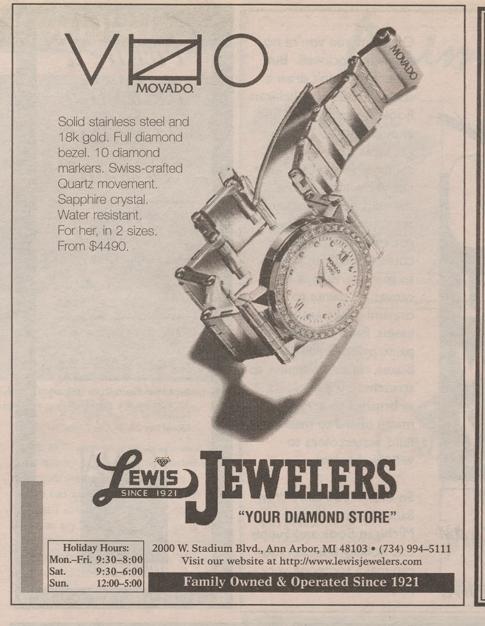
Kitchen Port has tons of great cookware, but I especially recommend the Good Grips kitchen tools on the back corner wall. They've won all sorts of design awards, and their big, comfy handgrips make even the simple act of peeling a potato a joy—really! A friend gave me a vegetable peeler a few years ago, and I actually have family members lining up for KP duty.

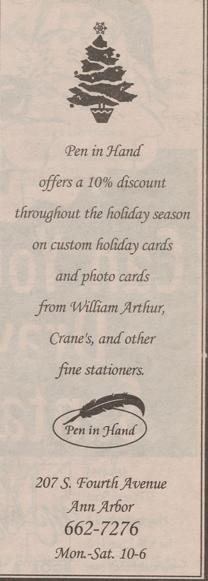
On to State Street. I popped upstairs to Cat's Meow and eyed the vivid pink and purple glam wig, \$36, in a modest page-boy cut—hmm. Not me. Neither were spiked leather bracelets, \$5–\$17, but I couldn't help wondering what it might do for my image if I wore one.

Urban Outfitters has long been a bastion of retro fashion, from the pre-pilled, seventies-esque sweaters they sell in their menswear section to the \$27 butterfly chairs—remember those?—up front. I liked a swell \$20 stainless steel martini pitcher with matching glasses for just \$10 each.

If you're tired of faux retro and long for the real thing, check out Kaleidoscope. They've got a pretty good selection of old Viewmasters, ranging from \$35 to \$85, as well as dozens of picture wheels to go with them. One depicts the Rocky Mountains; another, strangely, shows Japanese-subtitled scenes from Lassie.

Down the street, Steve & Barry's is a two-story temple erected to the gods of University of Michigan merchandising. They've got a good \$39.98 two-for-one deal going year round on Michigan sweatshirts. A spiffy Rembrandt "artist's quality" forty-five-piece pastel set is available at Michigan Book and Supply for \$99.95. Include a \$3.50 Aquabee sketch pad so the recipient can sketch portraits of others opening their gifts—a quiet, unobtrusive









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Ok, so maybe you're no Norman Rockwell. But even if you can't draw a stick-reindeer, at Michigan Book & Supply you'll find enough artistic holiday gift ideas to plug a chimney. This season why not get wildly creative in the state's best stocked art department? We've got everything an artist could want, from pencils to paint, cardstock to canvas, oil paints to origami paper, erasers to easels, Fimo to fabric paint, palettes to paint boxes, ceramic supplies to stretcher strips, airbrushes to acrylics, matte board to masking fluid, watercolors to willow charcoal.

So even if you can't draw Santa, by shopping at Michigan Book and Supply this holiday season, you can make someone very jolly indeed.

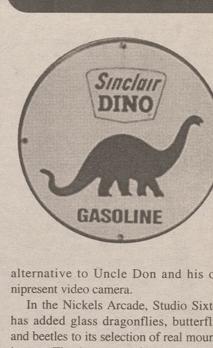


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alternative to Uncle Don and his om-

In the Nickels Arcade, Studio Sixteen has added glass dragonflies, butterflies, and beetles to its selection of real mounted insects. They're around \$200 each. A few doors down, the Caravan Shop has several whimsically designed ceramic teapots, including one that spoke to the writer in me: it's in the shape of a black desk—complete with an old-fashioned typewriter, a 1940sera phone, and a miniature photo of a platinum blonde-for \$130.

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By this time, my feet were killing me, which is probably why I was so intrigued by the Mephisto line, billed as the most comfortable footwear in the world, at Van Boven Shoes. Bliss comes at a price, though-women's sandals start at \$98, men's at \$130, and the shoes run upwards of \$250. Wrap up a shoehorn and a Mephisto brochure, and take the happy recipient shopping later to pick out the right size.

I flipped through the clearance bin at Discount Records and found Glen Campbell's Greatest Hits, \$7.99, and Remember the 70s, featuring the Starland Vocal Band, Ray Stevens, and David Soul from Starsky and Hutch. Around the corner, at Borders, New York Times best-sellers are always 30 percent off. Borders also has a gently sloped pillow called a Lap Reader, with a built-in braided tassle bookmark and elastic straps to hold down the pages;

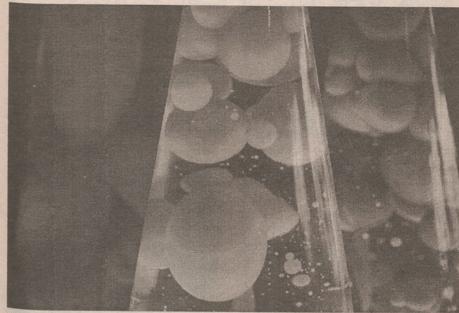
If you liked Mao's Little Red Book, check out the used copy of Poems of Mao Tse-tung at Dawn Treader. An example of the chairman's verse: "The warlordssudden veer of wind and rain / Showering misery the land / The warlords are clashing anew / Yet another golden millet dream." This is a great place to pick up a cheap stocking stuffer—out on the sidewalk racks, hardbacks are a buck and paperbacks are 50¢.

All would seem right with the world if I could start my day with breakfast from an "original" Royal Worcester Porcelain Company egg coddler made "by appointment to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II." They're \$30 at John Leidy. Similarly, I would feel prepared for anything the day might throw my way with an \$8.99 collapsible entrenching tool-that's a shovel, for those like me who didn't know-from Harry's Army Surplus. For the militaristic jogger, Harry's also has tapes of authentic



CELESTIAL FUTONS

HOLIDAY SHOPPING



Above: Lava lamps at Crown House of Gifts. Opposite: Automotive memorabilia at Yesterday's Collection. Bottom: Desk-shaped teapot at the Caravan Shop.

running cadences from the U.S. Marines, Navy, and Army Airborne.

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A short skip and a jump across the Diag and I was at Village Corner. I don't know enough about wine to recommend a particular vintage, but I thought a credit card-sized wine thermometer called a Vinometer would make a good gift. Just \$4.95, you stick it to the outside of the bottle to make sure you're serving that Pinot Grigio at a perfect 45 degrees.

In the Galleria, Fun 4 All sells action figures modeled after the rock band Kiss that come with gruesome, vaguely medieval-looking weapons instead of musical instruments for \$12.99 each. Also \$12.99, "X-Files" action figures come complete with "alien pods," as seen in the recent movie. Scully comes with cell phone, Mulder with flashlight. Fun 4 All also has a terrific collection of graphic novels (read: comic books for grown-ups) like Spawn and Ronin—not the Robert De Niro-Jean Reno movie, but a story of a thirteenth-century samurai transported to twentieth-century New York to fight the forces of evil.

Disc Go Round has a wide variety of used CDs, Sony Playstation

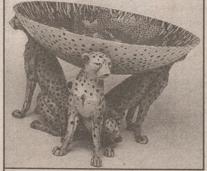


for up to \$5 apiece, you can finance your purchase by selling off unwanted discs from your own collection.

I'm too embarrassed to describe most of what I saw at S3: Safe Sex Store. Suffice it to say that there were a lot of body parts. Beanie versions. Windup jumping versions. Inflatable versions. The most mentionable item they carry is a Sensuous Love Massage kit with scented oils and a booklet on technique, \$38.50.

t Maple Village, I was quite taken with Radio Shack's \$49.99 "Flame Thrower Hot Roadster," a remotecontrolled off-roader that looks like something Speed Racer would drive. At Learning Express in Westgate, I admired a couple of experiment kits: Slime Science (\$10.95), which promises that the junior Frankenstein on your list will learn all about "the weird properties of slime" while making five different varieties; and the \$11.95 Build and Erupt Your Own Volcano kit-running, screaming villagers presumably not included.

You can put together your own custom silk flower arrangemimality

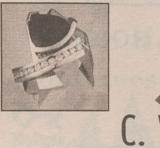


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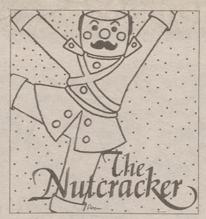
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incredibly realistic-looking silk pussy willows, cymbidium orchids, mums, and roses are \$2.50-\$10 a stem. Across the street at Lewis Jewelers, trinkets range from a \$40 Swatch watch on a blue denim, smiley face-festooned band to a \$34,880 necklace made from diamonds and a fourteen-karat pear-shaped tanzanite stone, a deep blue gem found only in Tanzania.

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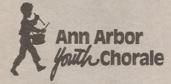


I took a quick cruise out Jackson Road to Yesterday's Collection, a totally fun antique car memorabilia store, where I found a reproduction Sinclair gasoline advertising sign, complete with dinosaur, for \$24.95. The swell 1957 orange and white Chevy Bel Air ragtop on display in the back isn't for sale, but you can get a 1956 turquoise and white die-cast metal model with working doors, trunk, hood, and steering wheel for \$29.95.

I don't ski, but the thick Dale of Norway ski sweaters in cheerful reindeer and snowflake patterns at Sun & Snow Sports would make me look pretty cute sitting in front of the fire at the lodge. They're \$208. They also have a Burton snowboard that reminded me of a giant tongue depressor; it's \$429.95.

Three words for this Christmas: flesheating fish. Piranhas are \$2.50 each at Pet Supplies Plus in Traver Village. They've also got 99¢ mice, \$14.99 calico-colored guinea pigs, and a Central American boa constrictor for \$60. A few doors down, Wild Bird Center doesn't sell birds, but they've got everything you could imagine to make your fine feathered friend's life a little sweeter. A decorative bird seed wreath comes already boxed and tied with a plaid ribbon, and would be great for office gift exchanges. It's \$9.95.

Lava lamps are still in; there's a good selection at Crown House of Gifts for \$49.95. Crown House is also your Hallmark Keepsake ornament source. In addition to the classic Christmas figures, you can also get a plastic model of Richard Petty standing alongside a race car, and Captain Janeway of Star Trek: Voyagerbefore her haircut—on the bridge.



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HOLIDAY SHOPPING

In the Courtyard Shops, Originations' wish list program lets you register for interesting multicultural gifts like a pretty cowrie shell necklace for \$30, and a fascinating brass and wood carved "Senufu" bird, \$85, which the owners told me is a trade symbol of sorts for African craftsmen. Around the corner at Stamp Friendzy, I found a kids' kit called Stamp-A-Face that includes fifty-six different animal and human features-eyes, glasses, hair, hats, snouts, mouths-for \$15.25.

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Toys R Us at Arborland is due to be demolished after the turn of the year (and rebuilt on a new plan nearby), but meanwhile, it's featuring a big wall of \$1, \$2, \$3, and \$5 toys. If the kids are bugging you for designer clothes, head across the way to Marshall's, where they've got kids' Ralph Lauren, Polo, Tommy Hilfiger, and Perry Ellis. Tommy jeans range from \$19.99 to \$38, and are, according to my fifteen-yearold cousin, what everybody wears.

At Service Merchandise, I found a plastic life-sized parking meter bank that captures the frustrations of trying to park in Ann Arbor: no matter how many coins you put in, the meter still says Expired.

The must-have item here is a Jeep limitededition sound system modeled after the classic tool kits sold for the original Jeeps. From the outside, it looks like a rugged black toolbox. Flip open the top, and you see an array of old-fashioned metal toggle switches and retro-looking dials. Very cool; \$159.99.

Football helmets were first worn in an 1893 Army-Navy game but weren't mandatory for another sixty years. The Upper Deck on Washtenaw has a great-looking leather replica of the original model that looks a lot like an aviator's cap. I also spotted a Gerald Ford collector's football card for \$2 from his days at U-M, and recalled LBJ's classic crack that Ford had played too many games without a helmet. Sure enough, in the photograph, he's not

I had a friend who was always being told that she moved like a dancer. Actually, she didn't-she was sort of clumsybut she dressed like a dancer, and that was enough to convey a graceful impression. The Dancer's Boutique in Lamp Post Plaza sells Danskin wraparound cover-ups for \$28 and Grusko black drawstring pants

A GIFT OF ANN ARBOR

my own vinegars, cordials, jams, bread, wreaths, and centerpieces to give people for the holidays. These days, I do the next best thing: I give gifts made in Ann Arbor. There are tons of talented folks in town who make everything from hot music to hot sauce. So give someone a little piece of Ann Arbor-and be grateful you don't live in Gilroy, California. Their chief export is

Occasionally Gift Baskets on Main Street has a sampler basket called Ann Arbor Gourmet that includes McKinley tea, Amy's chunky cherry chutney, Pastabilities pasta, a bottle of Clancy's Fancy hot sauce, the Parthenon's Greek salad dressing, and Sweet Lorraine's poppy seed dressing. All are made right here in town. The basket costs \$49.75.

Zingerman's breads make high-impact gifts, especially the wilder versions: pecan raisin, chocolate cherry, parmesan pepper, chile cheddar. Zingerman's also makes German-style stollen packed with butter, glacéed fruit, currants, almonds, vanilla, and a splash of Bacardi white rum, \$19.99 at the store or \$35.50 gift-boxed and shipped anywhere in the country.

Other edible local gifts? How about Al Dente pasta, available at many groceries around town in interesting flavors like squid ink, garlic parsley, and a festive tri-colored veggie, for \$2.99 a bag. Judy Weinblatt's toothsome homemade truffles are sold under the name Minerva Street Chocolate at Food & Drug Mart, among other places. In Kerrytown, T. R. Durham smokes salmon and other fish right on the premises at Durham's Tracklements. His amazing delicacies have been named among the country's best mail order gifts by the New York Times.

How about food for thought? Madein-Ann Arbor selections at Nicola's Books include Russ Bidlack's biography of Ann Allen, wife of our town's founder; Rosalie

Then I had more time, I made Edwards's gorgeous picture calendar, Vibrant Ann Arbor; Zonya Foco's clever, timesaving cookbook, Lickety Split Meals; Lois Kane and Ricky Agranoff's cookbook, Ann Arbor Fresh; and new novels by Loren Estleman and Sarah Zettel. Nicola also stocks CDs and cassettes from local musicians, including the Chenille Sisters, Gemini, folksinger Dev Singh, and classical pianist Julianne Marka-

You can find more tuneful Ann Arbor gifts at Schoolkids' in Exile (inside Oz's Music on Packard and downstairs at Elmo's Supershirts on State), Discount Records, Tower Records, SKR Blues & Jazz, and SKR Pop & Rock, among other stores. Selections at SKR Pop & Rock include the latest from local singer-songwriters Jo Serrapere, Lisa Hunter, Kevin Meisel, and Brian Lillie, as well as perennial favorites Big Dave and the Ultrasonics, George Bedard, and the RFD Boys.

Shaman Drum takes orders for delightfully confrontational postcards with sayings like "Fear Art," or the message "Green" printed in red, hand-set by Ken and Ann Mikolowski and published by their Alternative Press. In stock: the Mikolowskis' first-edition poetry postcard selection, featuring poems from all over the world, \$7.50 each.

If anything, Ann Arbor is even more abundantly blessed with visual artists than with writers and musicians. It's impossible to list all the resources and possibilities for gifts by local artists, but here are just a few: the Michigan Guild Gallery; Kerrytown's Bruise Gallery; the Clay Gallery in Nickels Arcade; the Jean-Paul Slusser Gallery, featuring the work of U-M students; and the Ann Arbor Art Center, whose downtown gallery includes work by more than 100 Ann Arbor artists in all media, from glass and ceramics to paintings and jewelry.

-L.M.







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HOLIDAY SHOPPING

for \$38. It also sells loose, nonskid house slippers imprinted with one of Degas's ballerina paintings for \$11—not recommended for dancing *en pointe*.

I headed west on Eisenhower and popped into Cost Plus World Market, where I fell in love with a six-foot-tall wooden giraffe from Namibia just inside the door. He's \$299. I also saw \$21.99 hand-carved walking sticks from Ghana with handles carved into birds, elephants, and lions. At Pier One, up the street, I was entranced by a quartet of thin, attenuated musician statues made of a heavy bronzed metal. They're sold separately at \$50-\$70, but if you've got the cash, they'd make an attractive set.

Budding paleontologists will like a DinoWorks kit from HobbyTown USA in Woodland Plaza: cast, assemble, and display a tyrannosaurus or triceratops skeleton for \$14.99. The big things at HobbyTown, though, are trains: a kiddie Thomas the Tank Engine set starts at \$40. A more grown-up Bachmann dual locomotive with operating headlight and six metal cars is \$78.99.

hen I was a little girl, my friends and I used to mortify my mother by tucking a toilet paper "tail" into the back waistband of our pants and galloping around the front yard, pretending we were horses. Today's kids can spare their parents such embarrassments; White Rabbit Toys sells animal tails, complete with quilted yellow triangle for tucking, for \$9.95. They've also got Colorformssomething I've always wanted-both in the classic \$29.95 version with red, blue, yellow, and green vinyl geometrics and in a new "contemporary" version with freeform shapes in purple, pink, lime green, and turquoise-sacrilege!

Feeling creative? You can get everything you need to make your own wreath at Michael's in Oak Valley Centre: grapevine base, dried flowers, leaves and fruit, glue sticks, glue gun, wire, even dried flower preservative so your gift will last for many a season. If you prefer your crafts pre-made, Michael's also has three-foot grapevine reindeers and angels starting at \$39.99.

I have never been able to make a harmonica produce anything but a single, emphatic chord, but I'm fascinated by them nonetheless. A classic Hohner Marine Band model is \$24.99 at Music Go Round. The store has a nice selection of used musical instruments, too.

At Hudson's at Briarwood, I made a beeline for the women's designer clothing department, where I spent several happy minutes picturing the life I could lead in Ralph Lauren's English

Manor collection: tweedy, country-casual hacking jackets and matching wool/Lycra

cuffed pants in "barley" (read: beige) that suggest jodhpurs without actually inflicting the indignity of stiff, ballooned fabric at the thigh. At \$382, they're considerably cheaper than buying someone her own Dorchester estate. I went gaga over a way-cool retro toaster I found upstairs in housewares with a curvaceous, chrome-trimmed body and vivid, sherbet-green side panels (\$69.95). It might not make better toast, but it would definitely make me smile every time I walked into the kitchen.

At Perfumania, the staff spritzes little cards instead of your wrist, so you don't walk out smelling like a bordello. The store sells designer fragrances at a discount, from oldie-but-goodie Shalimar (\$31–\$48) to America, a light, sporty new scent from Perry Ellis (\$30–\$40). On the way out, I noticed a canister of coffee beans on the counter and wondered wildly whether dabbing a bean or two behind the ears might be the latest thing to attract the opposite sex. An employee explained that the beans are there so customers can smell them and "cleanse" their sniffer between perfume samplings.

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Can you say "buttery soft corduroy"? At Banana Republic, \$350 buys a gorgeous, camel-colored men's leather jacket with corduroy-like striations. There are also lots of women's \$88 nylon and spandex stretch pants, so slippery it seems that wearers would always be slithering off the furniture and onto the floor. Speaking of slithering, the epitome of slink has to be a see-through nightgown and robe trimmed in ostrich feathers that I found at Victoria's Secret for \$330.

Hollywood-style cosmetic cases seem to be all the rage. I saw them in several different stores, but one of the better buys is the JCPenney version, a shiny, industrial-looking metal toolbox that includes twenty-four eye shadows, four blushes, two powders, two lipsticks, and an assortment of brushes, combs, tweezers, and manicure accessories for \$60. Penney's also has a great selection of Isotoner gloves in new colors—red, puttel ple, green—starting at \$16.





Above: The "Silver Bullet" at Yo Yo Universe. Opposite: Retro toaster at Hudson's.

At Natural Wonders, I found a book about the Japanese art of furniture placement called Practical Feng Shui, \$19.95. It was perfectly placed in the store's front window. In back, I was mesmerized by a kinetic sculpture that uses constant, hypnotic motion to demonstrate Newton's proposition that every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

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Fortunately, the strident cries of the Chop Chop cart vendor in the corridor outside the store snapped me out of my trance. "Don't miss this!" he called. "This is the perfect Christmas gift!" "This" turned out to be a \$27.99 Zyliss food chopper that I watched him use to chop onions, grind nuts, grate cheese, and irritate passersby. "Don't walk away!" he bellowed after me as I hurried down the corridor.

Timberland watches look charmingly like Timberland shoes-rugged, leathery, earth-toned. They cost about \$65 at the Watch Station; a tiny compass is inset into their faces. At Yo Yo Universe, another freestanding vendor, yo-yos range from a simple \$2.99 Duncan Imperial to the intimidating, futuristic Silver Bullet for \$89.99. Around-the-world? This baby looks as if it could take off and make the trip all by itself.

Young sports fans will like the lamps With wooden baseball mitts, footballs, and bats built into their bases at This End Up (\$95). Other possibilities for the pint-sized set include fold-up hooded anoraks that zip into their own pouch at Gap Kids, \$24, or an adorable teensy leather bomber jacket for toddlers, \$88.

Jake's has cuddly lambs' wool men's sweaters starting at \$185, and a dramatic polyester velvet cape in black, blue, or chocolate brown for \$55. I found some plaid jumpers in the Miss J shop that looked for all the world like the dresses Buffy used to wear on Family Affair. They're about the same size, too, but these short-short numbers are designed for teens and are made of spandex and nylon. Mr. French would roll over in his grave.

The new Eddie Bauer megastore has plenty of cool stuff prominently sporting the Eddie Bauer logo, including a handsome, wood-rimmed clock for \$32, and a "tumbled" leather mailbag for \$150. There's even an Eddie Bauer cologne called Adventurer. Not surprisingly, it smells like pine.

Jackets, T-shirts, cookie jars, drinking glasses, Pez dispensers-if they can put a cartoon character on it, it's for sale at the Warner Brothers store. I found myself giggling over the cheerful absurdity of a Tweety Bird paper clip holder. I'd like to tell you all about the equally silly merchandise at nearby Gadzooks, but an officious employee insisted that it was "illegal" for me to write down the brand names and prices of the store's merchandise. Suffice it to say that the store's teen-oriented clothing, like its staff, is strong on attitude.

At Williams-Sonoma, the Quick Mist olive oil mister (\$19) is the yuppie equivalent of Pam, allowing you to spritz food or pans with flavored oil. A few doors down, the Wooden Bird sells "sandicast" lifesized Labrador retrievers for \$299, perfect for those who'd like a pet without the fuss of feeding and maintenance.

I know almost nothing about tools, but I figure I can't go far astray with Sears' Craftsman brand—they have a lifetime guarantee. This year's must-have tool seems to be Robo Grip pliers, ingeniously designed, self-adjusting models made from laminated steel starting at \$19.99. Determined to find a gift idea representative of the much-advertised "softer side" of Sears, I went for the softest thing I could find: a white goose-down comforter at the remarkable price of \$79.99.

At this point, exhausted by shopping, I seriously considered curling up on the display bed. Luckily, I found a Perfumania sample card in my pocket. Fortified by a whiff of Baryshnikov Sport Scent, I staggered happily home.

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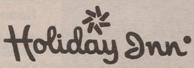
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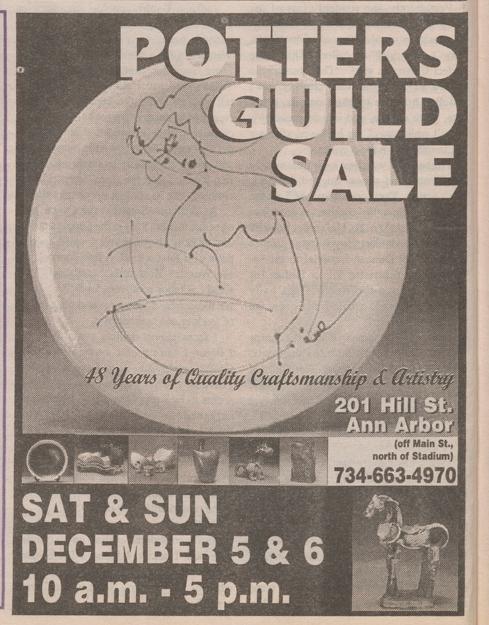
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Monday-Friday LUNCH 11:30am-3:30pm Sunday BRUNCH 10:00am-2:00pm Monday-Sunday DINNER 4:30pm-10:00pm Meeting & Banquet space available



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HOLIDAY EVENTS

Some highlights of Ann Arbor's holiday season. For a comprehensive listing of local holiday events, see the Observer's December calendar.

1998 St. Nicholas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. Nightly through December 31. More than 1 million lights brighten the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual holiday show. Indoor attractions and the opportunity to have your photo taken with Santa and his live reindeer. Proceeds benefit area charities.

6-10 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. Admission \$5-\$7 per car. 930-4430.

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. December 4 & 5. This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations, all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, and coats. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665-0450.

16th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. December 4–7. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit is highlighted this year by more than 100 creches recently bequeathed to the exhibit, including an 18th-century presepio from a Baroque creche tradition. Over-

all, the exhibit includes almost 900 Nativity scenes from 81 countries. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665-7852, 668-2477, 663-3699 (days).

21st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. December 4–6. A cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death. Get your tickets early. 7:30 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$10 (ages 18 & under, \$6; December 5 dinner & performance, \$35) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. 995–4612.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. December 5 & 6. This annual performance of Handel's well-loved religious oratotio has been an Ann Arbor tradition since 1879. Thomas Sheets directs the UMS Choral Union and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The soloists are all professionals with national or international reputations. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$18 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221, 1220

10th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association. December 6. All kids are invited to join a downtown street parade featuring assorted costumed animal characters, city fire engines, AATA and public school buses, and area high school marching bands. The parade is led by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who ride in a reindeer-drawn sleigh. Participating children are encouraged to wear costumes and are given kazoos to play in a kiddie band. Parents are welcome to bring kids in strollers or accompany those who need escorts. Noon (assembling), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.

"23rd Annual Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. November 29 & December 6. Re-creation of a mid-19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse are available. 1–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2 (families, \$8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.



At the Concordia College Boar's Head Festival, December 4-6, a cast of more than 100 presents a traditional pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death.

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. December 6. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts from Third World countries. Also, calendars, cards, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 3–7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.

"Sing-Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. December 13. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa, with piano accompaniment by AASO business manager Lori Cheek. Also, a Pioneer High string quartet performs selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, and Tyler Duncan plays the bagpipes. 3:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$5 (children), \$10 (adults), \$25 (families), available in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994–4801.

25th Annual Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash: First Unitarian Church. December 13. This popular annual tradition features piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with some boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's lineup of top-notch local performers includes pianists Mike Montgomery, Jim Dapogny, Bob Seeley, Waleed Howrani, and Bolcom and Morris (the duo of pianist Bill Bolcom and soprano Joan Morris), among others. 8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$8) at the door only. 665-6158.

"A 'Festival of Light' Classics': Washtenaw Community College. December 14. WCC faculty and students perform light classical selections in honor of the Jewish festival of lights, Hanukkah. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, Washte-

naw Community College, 150 Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 18–20. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the story of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairy-

land on Christmas Eve. More than 100 dancers, from children to adults, perform to live music by the Michigan Sinfonietta and the Slauson Middle School Choir under the direction of Leo Najar. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$18 (seniors, students, & groups of 20 or more, \$10 each; children 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763—TKTS.

"A Boychoir Christmas":
Boychoir of Ann Arbor. December 19. Boychoir founder
Tom Strode directs this local
ensemble of 40 boys in its 12th
annual Christmas concert. Men
singers provide the lower choral
parts, and the choir is accompanied by an organist on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter organ.
The program concludes with a
sing-along of traditional carols.

Come early for a good seat. 3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$12 (students, \$6; families, \$30) in advance and at the door. 663–5377.

"A Baroque Holiday": Michigan Chamber Brass. December 19. Paul Eachus directs this local brass and percussion ensemble in a program featuring Baroque music, including arrangements of Bach's Violin Concerto and Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. Also, seasonal tunes, including John Rutter's "Ding Dong Merrily on High," Mel Torme's "Christmas Song," and more. 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. \$10 (students & seniors, \$7); group discounts available. 485–2902.

34th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. December 20. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. 1 p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested. Call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.

Kwanzaa Celebration: African-American Cultural and Historical Museum. December 27. An art exhibit and sale of food, clothing, arts and crafts, jewelry, and books. Children's activities (5–6:30 p.m.) include storytelling and games. Also, a Kwanzaa candle-lighting ceremony (7 p.m.). 4–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 434–5507.





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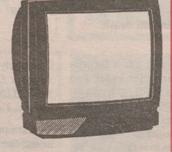
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ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 1998

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DECEMBER EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Who to write to:

Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE, but faxes are welcome or send E-mail to events@arborweb.com. Fax numbers are: 769-3375 or 769-2147. The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available on **arborweb**: http://www.arborweb.com.

What gets in?

With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (usually the 2nd Friday of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by Thursday, December 10, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

FILM SOCIETIES on and off campus

Basic info:

Tickets \$4 unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations for film societies:

CH—Canterbury House 665–0606. CCS—U-M Center for Chinese Studies 764–6308. CG—Cinema Guild 994-0027. CJS-U-M Center for Japanese Studies 764–6307. Chelsea—Chelsea Film Society. \$4.50 (children 12 & under and seniors 65 & over, \$2). 475–4596, 475–2955. FV— Program in Film & Video Studies 764-0147. GH—German House 764-2152. HILL—Hill Street Cinema 769-0500. IWW—Industrial Workers of the World. M-FLICKS—University Activities Center. \$2. 763-1107. MTF-Michigan Theater Foundation. \$6.50 (children, students, & seniors, \$5; MTF members, \$4.50). 668–8480. U-CLUB—Michigan Union University Club,

Abbreviations for locations:

AADL—Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. AH-A—Angell Hall Auditorium A. Canterbury—Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. Chelsea—Chelsea Depot, Jackson at Main St., Chelsea. Chrysler—Chrysler Center Auditorium, 2121 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. EQ—Room 126 East Quad, East University at Hill. German House—603 Oxford at Geddes Ave. Hillel-Green Auditorium, Hillel Foundation, 1429 Hill St. IWW-Industrial Workers of the World headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Lorch—Lorch Hall (Old Architecture Building), Tappan at Monroe. Mich.-Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty. MLB—Modern Languages Building, E. Washington at Thayer. Nat. Sci.— Natural Science Building, 830 North University at Thayer. U-CLUB—Michigan Union U-Club, 530

* Denotes no admission charge.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednes-

www.arborweb.com

1 TUESDAY

Sarah Weeks: Magic Carpet Books & Wonders. This children's book author and songwriter, a former Ann Arborite now living in New York, reads from her latest book, *The Little Factory. Time to be* announced, Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free. 973–8757.

Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. December 1-3 & 8-10 (different branch lo cations). Stories, songs, and finger plays for Preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. Note: The main li-



Dee Carstensen, Dec. 12



The Nields, Dec. 5

CALENDAR

GALLERIES

117 EXHIBIT OPENINGS 117 GALLERY REVIEW Michigan Book Artists

Jennifer Dix

Jennifer Dix

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

125 NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE

125 NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW

Jim Roll: Austin on the Huron

John Hinchey

Alan Goldsmith

DECEMBER EVENTS

EVENTS REVIEWS

93 DEREK WALCOTT A voice from the twilight of empire

ARLO GUTHRIE Fishing downstream from Dylan

103 BALFA TOUJOURS Personal tradition

107 FRANCOIS HOULE Clarinet marmalade

> BISHR HIJAZI Flamenco with an Arabic soul

148 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Keith Taylor

Mary Carlson-Mason

James M. Manheim

Piotr Michalowski

James M. Manheim



Ellen Rabiner in Handel's Messiah, Dec. 5 & 6



Michael Feldman in Whad'Ya Know?, Dec. 12

brary holds storytime programs on the same days (see listing below). 9:30-10 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch (December 1 & 8), Loving Branch (December 2 & 9), & Northeast Branch (December 3 & 10), Free. 994–1674, 994–2353,

*"Off-the-Wall Speculations on the Origin of Zen Meditation: Bodhidharma and Mixed Binomes": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Brown Bag Lecture. Nanzan (Japan) University religious studies professor Paul Swanson, currently a visiting professor at Indiana University, discusses the legend of Bodhidharma and his transmission of Zen meditation to China and examines the possibility that the notion that he sat meditating facing a wall for nine years may originate in linguistic confusion. Bring a bag lunch; cookies & coffee served. Noon-1 p.m., 1636 School of Social Work Bldg., 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

*"Awakening the Leader Within": U-M Commission for Women. Local therapists Robert Pasick and JoAnn Allen discuss the program they designed to help U-M women develop leadership skills. Some of the 12 women who participated in the pilot program also speak. Noon-1 p.m., Michigan League Michigan Room. Free. 936–7634.

*Alicia Rowe: Ann Arbor District Library "Downtown Sounds" Concert Series. This Ann Arbor Symphony cellist performs a Bach suite and other solo cello works to be announced. Bring a bag lunch; coffee & tea provided. 12:10-1 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower lev-el), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994-2333.

*Monthly Meeting: Newcomers Club of Ann Arbor. A representative from the local craft supply store Michael's demonstrates holiday crafts. Preceded at 12:30 p.m. by coffee. I p.m., Ann Arbor Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free.

Praise and Worship Dance Practice: Christian Dance Network. Every Tuesday (except December 22 & 29). All invited to these drop-in dance sessions, where participants learn simple moves to songs of praise and worship. Wear loose, comfortable clothes and bring a sweater for warm-up. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Donation. For information, call Joan O'Connell at 662–9890.

*Drop-In Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. December 1-3 & 8-10. Stories, songs, and finger plays for preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. This week's topic: "Good Morning!" Also this month: "Good Night!" (December 8-10). Note: The library branches hold storytime programs on the same days (see listing above). 2-2:30 p.m. (Tuesdays), 6:30-7 p.m. (Wednesdays), & 9:30-10 a.m. (Thursdays), Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

*Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. December 1, 3, & 4. U-M opera students perform scenees from operas by Bizet, Mozart, Rossini, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and Berlioz. 5 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.

1998 St. Nicholas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. Nightly through December 31. More than 1 million lights illuminate the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual holiday show. Live sheep and cattle from the petting farm can be seen grazing on the grounds. New light displays this year include an animated St. Nicholas set, an 8-sequence animated Nativity scene, a miniature tunnel of lights, and many new snowflakes and accents along the route. Indoor attractions include hands-on craft activities for kids, a Winter Wonderland display com-plete with miniature electric train, a hallway lined with Christmas trees decorated by area merchants, an exhibit on the evolution of the Coca Cola Santa Claus advertisements, and a display of Nativity scenes from around the world. Also, the opportunity to have your photo taken with Santa and his live reindeer. Gift store, refreshments. Also, anyone with web access can send an electronic postcard with pictures of the display from www.spiritofchristmas.org, Proceeds benefit area charities. 6–10 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Admission \$5 per vehicle (Mon.-Thurs.), \$7 per vehicle (Fri.-Sun.). Buses: \$50, 930-4430.

*"String Figure Fun": Ann Arbor District Library. Local string figure artist Marcia Gaynor shows how to make a cat's cradle and other string



Friday, Dec. 4th, 9 am-2 pm Saturday, Dec. 5th, 9 am-2 pm New & Reusable

- toys and games
- Christmas decorations
- artificial Christmas trees
- · clothes, coats, and boots
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- · antiques and collectibles
- furniture and hardware
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Southfield Centre for the Arts 24350 Southfield Road



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Tickets are \$30 and \$35 per person. Tickets available at all TICKET ILLUSTER Ticket Centers including Hudson's and Harmony House Stores. To charge 248/645-6666. Tickets are also available by check or cash at Southfield City Hall, 26000 Evergreen Road, at the Main Reception Desk weekdays 8 am to 5 pm; or the Parks & Recreation Building evenings 5 to 7 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 2 pm.

Pre-concert dinner offered by the Golden Mushroom at 6:00 pm. For dinner reservations at \$25 per person, contact the Golden Mushroom at 248/559-4230.

Call the City of Southfield Community Relations Department at 248/354-4854 for more information.

Based on the classic fairy tale, The Snow Queen--a musical delight for the entire family--was originally created for Ann Arbor theatre audiences in 1983 by Tom Simonds and Rebecca Vilsides, and has since been produced around the world, including Off-Broadway. Now the Snow Queen comes home to Ann Arbor!

KIWANIS SALE .



Join the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre to share in the story-telling of this enchanting, lyrical, and often humorous piece of musical theatre, which is not just for kids.

The Snow Queen

Lyrics and Script by: Tom Simonds & Rebecca Viisides Music by: Tom Simonds

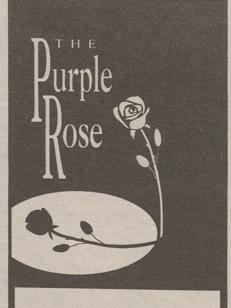
Director: Jan Koengeter Vocal Director: Adam Riccinto Choreographer: Connie Velin

December 10 - 13 and 17 - 20, 1998

Evenings at 8 PM Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 PM

Civic Playhouse, 2275 Platt Road

For Tickets call 734-971-AACT \$18 Adults, \$16 Students and Seniors All Seats Reserved www.a2ct.org



Boom Town

written and directed by Jeff Daniels

thru December 19

137 Park St. Chelsea, MI 48118 (734) 475-7902 Box Office (734) 475–5817 Administration (734) 475-0802 Fax

EVENTS continued

figures. For kids age 8 & older. 6:30–7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library youth department (1st floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–8301.

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"Networking Session and Holiday Spree": Women Business Owners of Southeast Michigan. Women business owners and their guests are invited to view a wide variety of products and services available for corporate and personal holiday gifts. Also, election of club officers. Refreshments. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott, 3205 Boardwalk. \$10 (members, free). Reservations re-

★"Vincent" Auditions: The Friends of the Michigan League. December 1-3. All male and female actors invited to audition for one of 11 roles in a March production of Vincent: Harkening to Divine Whispers, a new play about the life of Vincent Van Gogh, commissioned by the Michigan League and written by Chicago playwright Frances Sebastian. 7-9 p.m., Michigan League (3rd floor). Free. 647-7463.

*German Speakers' Round Table. Every Tuesday. All German speakers invited to join for conver sation and coffee in a relaxed atmosphere, followed by beer and more conversation at a nearby pub. 7 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free admission. 485-4204.

*Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Tuesday. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 24th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7 p.m., U-M Track & Tennis Bldg., Hoover at S. State. Free. 663-9740.

*Biweekly Meeting: Huron Valley Greens/U-M Student Greens. December 1 & 15. Today's program is a discussion of Greens philosophy. Also this month: Greens members discuss teaming up wiith other local activist organizations on various current issues (December 15). 7-8:30 p.m., Michigan League location to be announced. Free. 663-3555.

*Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Area Knitters Club. Every Tuesday. Knitters of all levels of experience are invited to join this group that meets weekly to knit together and share techniques and ideas. -9 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 747-6383.

*Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. Every Tuesday and Thursday through December 22 Musicians and other entertainers present a series of family programs. Tonight: the Emerson School Band. Also, strolling carolers in Victorian costume perform at the mall every Saturday (noon-4 p.m.) and the Ann Arbor Symphony Quintet performs every Sunday (2-4 p.m.). Santa is on hand every day to meet with youngsters; those who write a letter to Santa by December 17 and deposit it in the mall's special mailbox will receive a personalized response. 7-8 p.m., Briarwood Mall Grand Court. Free. 769-9610.

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. December 1, 15, & 29. Workshop and dancing led by Helen White. Don Theyken, and Eric Arnold, with live music by David West and Donna Baird (tonight), A Perfect Match (December 15), and Anne Ogren and Kathe Johnson (December 29). Also, a special Solstice Party on December 22 (see listing). All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes. 7-9:45 p.m., Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.), \$4. 662–5158.

★Richard Tillinghast: Borders Books and Music. This U-M English professor reads his poetry to the accompaniment of Poignant Plecostomus, a popular local jazz-rock band that includes his son Josh on drums. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

★Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. December 1, 8, & 15. Local professionals discuss substance abuse and related issues. Tonight: social worker Ronald Harrison discusses "Adolescent Substance Abuse." Also this month: Dawn Farm staff and residents talk about "Treatment and Recovery" (December 8), and Harrison discusses "Progression of Codependency" (December 15). 7:30 p.m., Dawn Farm, 6333 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free; donations accepted. 485-8725

*"The Jewish Learning Series": Hillel. December 1 & 8. Rabbi Rich Kirschen leads a weekly drop-in discussion on Jewish topics from prayer to Hasidic mysticism to Talmud to Jewish holidays. Aimed at grad students, young professionals, and others with busy schedules. Coffee, tea, and snacks served. 7:30–8:30 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. Free. For specific topics, call 769-0500 or E-mail kirschni@

*"The Myths of Fasting: Herbs for Nourishment Not for Punishment": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7:30–9:30 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.

★"The Impact of Large Episodic Events on the Lake Michigan Ecosystem": U-M Science Research Club. Talk by Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory senior scientist Brian Eadie. Refreshments. 7:30–10 p.m., G-390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. (Entrance is from the 3rd level of the Fletcher St. parking structure.) Free. 763–2566, 761–4320.

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*Biweekly Meeting: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. December 1 & 15. All invited to learn about the ski club's various excursions and social events. Tonight's topic: "Hypothermia." Also this month: a potluck (December 15). 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free, 662–SKIS.

*Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Camera Club. Club members show their recent slides and prints. There is no 3rd Tuesday meeting this month. 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free (\$10 annual dues for those who join). 663–3763, 665–6597.

*"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Tuesday. Talk by Gelek Rinpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who currently lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Rinpoche's longtime student Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting guest speaker. 7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 211 E. Ann. Free, but donations are accepted. 994–3387.

"Coffee with Faculty": U-M Alumni Association. Coffee & pastries, followed by "Carried to the Wall: American Memory and the Vietnam War Memorial," a talk by U-M Program in American Culture lecturer Kristin Ann Hass on her booklength meditation on the offerings left one day in 1990 at the Vietnam Memorial. 7:30 p.m., U-M Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher. \$10. Reservations required. 763–9707.

*Weekly Rehearsal: Sweet Adelines County Connection. Every Tuesday. All women invited to drop in and listen to or participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus, formerly known as the Ann Arbor Sweet Adelines. 7:30–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to first-time visitors (\$18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.

*Weekly Rehearsal: Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. Visitors welcome. 7:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free to first-time visitors (\$70 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call John Hancock at 769–8169.

*Weekly Meeting: Ypsilanti Community Band. Every Tuesday. All musicians invited to join this 50-member community band directed by Ken Bowman. Music & stands provided. Visitors welcome. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard Rd. at Hewitt. Free. 485–4048, 482–7670.

Swing Dance Jam. December 1 & 8. Swing dancing, including the jitterbug, the lindy hop, and other styles, to recorded music at an informal dance on a wooden dance floor. No formal instruction, but experienced dancers are usually willing to share different moves. Beginners welcome; no partner necessary, 7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). \$2, 973–2654.

*Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. Every Tuesday. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. 8–10 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 913–5831.

Michael Salinger: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Edgy, humor-laced poetry by this Cleveland performance poet, a 3-time National Poetry Slam participant who claims to be the "Grand King Daddy" of all poems that refer to fish. The program also includes open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a poetry slam, in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. 8–11 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg Restaurant), 215 N. Main. \$3. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451

*Eileen Pollack: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This U-M undergrad creative writing program director reads from *Paradise*, her new novel about a young woman's efforts to save her family's Catskills hotel in the face of the decline of the Borscht Belt vaude-ville circuit. Following the reading, Pollack signs copies of her books. Refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.

**On The Cutting Edge: Asian News Update": U-M Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies. Two distinguished journalists discuss the dramatic events currently unfolding in Asia, from economic turmoil to nuclear bomb tests. Pulitzer Prize winner John Burns, currently the New York Times bureau chief in New Delhi (India), discusses "Fundamentalism, Nationalism, and Genocide from a Reporter's Perspective." Also, Stan Sesser, a UC-Berkeley Human Rights Center senior fellow currently working in Hong Kong, talks about "The Crumbling Information Curtain: The Internet's Impact in China, Vietnam, and Malaysia." 8 p.m., 1636 School of Social Work Bldg., 1080 South University. Free. 764–5261.

★EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department. Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music faculty and students in a program of 17th- and 18th-century choral and instrumental music that includes Haydn's Theresienmesse, Telemann's Oboe Concerto in f minor, and music by Thomas Morley. 8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

★Jazz Combos: U-M School of Music. Donald Walden directs U-M jazz students in a varied program. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.

★Small Brass Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Charles Daval leads U-M brass students in a program to be announced. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.

★Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier directs this U-M student ensemble in Handel's virtuosic setting of Psalm 110, Dixit Dominus. Also, cantata arias by Bach. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Blanche Anderson Moore Organ Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.

Mary Jane Lamond: The Ark. Traditional Scottish Gaelic ballads and contemporary techno-funk adaptations by this fast-rising diva from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, whose velvety, full-bodied voice, exquisite diction, and musical adventurousness appeal to both folk and alternative-pop audiences. She performs with a band, the Kitchen Devils, that includes handmade percussion, Irish bodhran, Highland bagpipes, fiddle, and cello. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. Every Tuesday. Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroitarea bands. All singles invited; married couples also welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance class (\$3). Dress code observed. 8:30–11:30 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$5 (members, \$4). 971–2015.

FILMS

MTF Silent Film Series. "Sunrise" (F. W. Murnau, 1927). Oscar-winning drama about a farmer led on to kill his wife by another woman. Mich., 4:10 p.m. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). December 1–4, 6, 7, & 10. Tragicomedy about a man determined to shield his young son from the horrors of WWII, to the extent of pretending that it's a game when the family is interned in a concentration camp. Italian, subtitles. Mich., 7 p.m. "Jeffrey" (Christopher Ashley, 1995). Adaptation of Paul Rudnick's stage comedy about a gay man who falls in love after swearing off sex for fear of AIDS. Mich., 9:30 p.m.

2 WEDNESDAY

*"Library On-Line Catalog": Ann Arbor District Library. Library staffers offer a hands-on introduction on how to use the library's electronic catalog, which can be accessed in the library or remotely, through the library website (www.annarbor.lib.mi.us). 8:30 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2503 Jackson Ave. Free. Preregistration required. 994–1674.

★"Ethnicity, Religion, and Nationalism: Armenians and the End of the Ottoman Empire": U-M Center for Russian and East European Studies. Talk by University of Chicago political science professor Ronald Suny, a former U-M Armenian studies professor. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, 1636 U-M School of Social Work Bldg., 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. Every Wednesday and Thursday (except December 3, 24, & 31). A series of video documentaries about art and art history. Today's video, Citizen Barnes: An American Dream, is about the life of art collector Albert Barnes. Also this month: The Game of Art and How to Play It (December 9 & 10); The Medici and the Library (December 16 & 17); and Gertrude Stein:

The Ann Arbor Women's City Club was established in 1951 to create a place for women in the community to meet.

The Club offers a variety of educational programs and classes, social events and leisure activities for women of all ages. In addition, club members are involved with community and charitable activities



community and charitable activities. Spousal memberships are available.

Farm & Garden Greens Market December 3, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about becoming a member or activities we offer, please call **734-662-3279**.

Ann Arbor Women's City Club 1830 Washtenaw Avenue • Ann Arbor

Our auditorium and other facilities are available for special events.

What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?

Join us for the seventh annual gala New Year's Eve celebration concert

by the Grammy-nominated James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band at the Power Center > 8:00 PM > December 31, 1998

The program will feature classic jazz and pops with a good bit of year-end nostalgia.

Special guest artist will be the wonderful jazz and blues vocalist Susan Chastain.



Continuing an Ann Arbor tradition,

Hazen and Rusty Schumacher will host
the performance.

Tickets for the show are \$25 each. Seating at the Power Center is on a first-come, first-served basis.

After the concert, reserve your place for the *Afterglow Dinner Party* at ZanziBar, 214 S. State. Dinner reservations are \$5.00 and can be ordered with your concert tickets.

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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church 665-9117 420 W. Liberty St.

Sunday Services: 8:00 am and 10:45 am

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES

Wednesday Advent (12/2, 12/9, 12/16) 7:00 pm Christmas Eve

5:30 pm Family Service 7:30 pm Choral Service Candlelight Service 11:00 pm 10:00 am

New Year's Eve

Christmas Day 7:30 pm

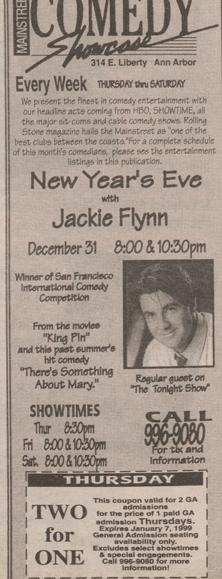


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EVENTS continued

When This You See, Remember Me, Part 1 (December 23) and Part 2 (December 30). 12:10 p.m. (Wednesdays) & 7:30 p.m. (Thursdays), UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free, 764-0395.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Every Wednesday. A variety of activities for kids. 3:30-5:15 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. \$2.50. 971-3228.

"A Taste for Theater": Performance Network Benefit. Arbor Brewing Company co-owner Rene Graff hosts a tasting of more than 60 wines, ales, lagers, meads, and ciders from around the world. Also, hors d'oeuvres and desserts from local restaurants. 5–9 p.m., Celebration Cellars (aka the Cavern Club), 210 S. First. \$20 (\$45 includes Performa Network membership) by reservation only.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 1 Tuesday. 5 & 7 p.n

*Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club. Every Wednesday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15–7:45 p.m., Concordia College Science Bldg., 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: \$24 semiannually. 995–7351.

Open Meeting: Washtenaw Chess Club. Every Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday. All invited to play chess with their peers. Chess sets & clocks provided. 7-11 p.m., Chess Express, 220 S. Main (below Elmo's Supershirts). \$3 (first-time visitors, free). 665-0612

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday. Each two-person team plays two or three hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$3 per person. 971-7530

*Transcendental Meditation Introductory Session: Maharishi Vedic School. Every Wednesday. Introduction to a simple, natural meditation technique for creativity, happiness, and fulfillment. 7 p.m, 2574 Old Boston Ct. Free. 996-8686.

*"Remedy Box": Whole Foods Market. Caroline Smoyer offers tips on homeopathic remedies for common winter colds, coughs, the flu, and winter blahs. 7 p.m., Lamp Post Inn (next to Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium). Free, but reservations required. 971-3366.

Annual Holiday Charity Auction: Friends and Neighbors of Saline. Live and silent auctions of numerous donated goods and services, including gift certificates, crafts, gift baskets, and more. Proceeds benefit local charities throughout Washtenaw Counp.m., Saline District Library Brecon Room, 555 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Free admission. 944-5007.

*Sarah Zettel: Nicola's Books. This award-winning science-fiction writer reads from and discusses Playing God, her new novel about a human biotechnologist charged with saving an alien civilization and preventing interplanetary warfare. 7-9 p.m., Nicola's Books (Little Professor), Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Bradley. 7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15. 764-0247.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Smocking Group. Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in smocking, the English art of embroidering by gathering cloth in regularly spaced round tucks, and heirloom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663–7867.

★Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council. Every Wednesday (except December 30). Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665-3522.

★"Christian Science Testimony Meeting": First Church of Christ, Scientist. Every Wednesday. The church's lay reader reads different selections each week from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. Followed by testimony of Christian Science healing by congregation members. All invited. 7:30–8:30 p.m., First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1833 Washtenaw Free, 662-1694.

*Ann Arbor Computer Society Monthly Meeting. Local software engineer Jeff Flinn discusses and demonstrates Intrinsic's Tango program for enhancing realistic motion in computer graphics.

7:30-9:30 p.m., 1200 U-M Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. 668-1982.

★"The Israel Conflict and Politics of Meaning": Foundation for Ethics and Meaning. Talk by Benjamin Mordecari Ben-Baruch, a senior associate with the local consulting firm Starworks and a veteran activist for human rights, peace, and justice in the Middle East. 7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free. For information, call Heather McKenzie 995-8481.

*Derek Walcott: U-M English Department Visiting Writers Series/Office of the President. See re view, right. Reading by this Nobel laureate, a distinguished Caribbean poet and playwright whose in-tensely personal, unromanticized writings display a steady control over nuance and tone as well as a delight in sensuous, dramatic language. He recently published his first essay collection, What the Twilight Says, a series of keen meditations on the state of writing and culture. "The writing here is so in-tense that it threatens to disintegrate into lyric," observes Publisher's Weekly. "In fact, the pieces deserve to be read aloud for their finely wrought metaphors, their intelligent, conversational observations and the beauty of their sound." Also, Walcott gives a lecture tomorrow (see listing). 7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-6296.

*"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. Every Wednesday. All invited to discuss Rudolf Steiner' basic anthroposophical book, Knowledge of Higher Worlds and Its Attainment. 8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 764–0120.

*Biweekly Meeting: Scandinavian Folk Music Group. December 2 & 16. All musicians invited to join this group to perform Scandinavian folk tunes. The group is led by fiddler Bruce Sagan, who always teaches some new tunes and stylings at each meeting. Newcomers welcome. 8 p.m., 2005 Penncraft Ct. (off Doty from Dexter Ave.). Free. 327-3636.

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Arlo Guthrie: The Ark. December 2 & 3. See review, p. 99. The son of American folk music pioneer Woody Guthrie, Arlo first established his own identity-an indelible blend of beguiling humor and acerbic political wit—in the late 60s with his epic talking ballad, "Alice's Restaurant." He's a firstclass songwriter and a captivating interpreter of con-temporary tunes by the likes of Steve Goodman and Bob Dylan, as well as traditional songs, ballads, and stories. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

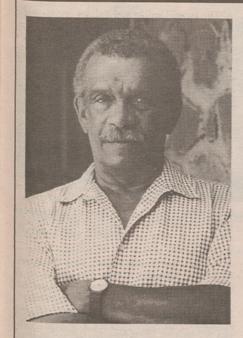
"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. December 2-6, 9-13, & 16-19. Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels directs the world premiere of his new drama exploring a collision of passion with business and politics in a small Midwestern town (modeled after Daniels's hometown, Chelsea). A married couple ask their local banker and longtime friend for a loan to help their struggling business. He's already bailed them out once and lost money, so he's reluc tant to extend himself again. Things are complicated by the fact that, unbeknownst to the shop owner, his wife and the banker are having an affair. Recommended for mature audiences. Cast: Sandra Birch, John Lepard, and Guy Sanville. 8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$20 (Wed., Thurs., & Sun.) & \$25 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 475-7902.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society/Detroit Opera House/Arts League of Michigan. November 27-29 & December 2-6. Choreographer Donald Byrd's immensely popular jazz reworking of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet has been moved to the Detroit Opera House this year. Round-trip bus transportation (\$6) is available for the evening performances on November 27 & December 4 & 5 only. Buses leave Pioneer High School parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Performance at 8 p.m. (additional Sat. & Sun. matinees at 2 p.m.), Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets \$15-\$40 (Fri., Sat., & Sun.) and \$12-\$45 (Wed. & Thurs.) in advance at Burton Tower or at the webwww.ums.org. To charge by phone, call 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★Weekly Meeting: Shorinji Kempo. Every Wednesday. All invited to try this Japanese self-defense system, which combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. Club members also meet weekly for noncompetitive practice. 8:30-10:30 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. at W. Huron. Free to first-time visitors (\$25 monthly

MTF. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

literature



Derek Walcott A voice from the twilight of empire

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Even before he received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1992, Derek Walcott had established himself as a monumental figure in Caribbean letters. His attitudes became those that other writers from his region had to assimilate or resist. His use of images and the texture of his words-for which the critical clichés of tropical literature ("lush," "exotic") really do apply-became the medium by which some of us in the cold north understood the Caribbean. I have a clearer mental picture, for instance, of Walcott's tiny home island of St. Lucia than I do of much larger and more famous places. I have no idea whether or not my image bears any relation to reality, but Walcott's language has certainly given it the feel of truth

Walcott believes that Caribbean literature has arisen out of the twilight of empire, giving the colonial writer a unique relationship with the imperial language and its traditions. This view does not appear to be shared by many other writers from Walcott's region. Nonetheless, that sense of his identity has empowered Walcott's imagination to break new paths. His masterpiece, Omeros, a booklength poem centered on the lives of Caribbean fishermen, combines Homeric themes, English meters, and the diction of the islands to tell its moving stories about the lives of poor people.

Walcott's last book of poems, The Bounty, begins with a long elegy to his mother. Its mixture of personal and regional history, classical and biblical allusiveness, and complex language makes it a difficult but rewarding poem. The last six lines give something

my business and duty, the lesson you taught

to write of the light's bounty on familiar things that stand on the verge of translating them-

the crab, the frigate that floats on cruciform

and that nailed and thorn-riddled tree that

opens its pews to the blackbird that hasn't forgotten her be-

Walcott's recently published first book of prose, What the Twilight Says, collects some early essays about the Caribbean with many of the long review-essays he has published in The New York Review of Books over the last couple of decades. But perhaps the two most engaging essays are the ones on Frost and Hemingway. In those, Walcott sheds new and clear light on writers from the North American tradition, and makes the point that their influence can be different and wider than we had previously imagined.

Derek Walcott is at the U-M during the first week of December, and he offers a reading and a lecture on December 2 and 3, re--Keith Taylor spectively.

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3 THURSDAY

51st Annual Greens Market: Women's Farm and Garden Association. A wide selection of fresh greenery arranged in wreaths, bundles, and swags for holiday decoration. Includes holly, boxwood top-lary and kissing balls, and more. Also, handmade gifts and crafts. Lunch available (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.). Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible.

*Monthly Meetings: La Leche League of Ann Arbor. December 3, 9, & 16. All nursing mothers are invited to learn about the benefits of breast-feed-Ing. 10 a.m. (today & December 16) & 7:30 p.m. (December 9), locations to be announced. Free. 332-9080.

*"The Mind-Body-Spirit Connection: Healing Ourselves, Healing Our World." Every Thursday (except December 24 & 31). All women invited to Join this interfaith women's group for discussions. 10 a.m.-noon, location to be announced. Free. For location and information, call Sandra LaRoe at 995-2429.

*Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center. Thursday (except December 24 & 31). A Weekly program of activities primarily for seniors.
The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Adults at Leisure Coffee Hour," a social support discussion group led by local social worker Phyllis Herzig that offers a chance to socialize, listen to music, tell jokes, and relax. At 11 a.m., an educational or cultural presentation. This week: "A View of China 1998," a slide-illustrated program by four Ann Arboric. borites who recently traveled together to China: Carol & Herb Amster, Prue Rosenthal, and Phyllis Herzig. Also this month: Local spiritual leader Alfred Rosenberg discusses "From Jerusalem to Ann Arbor: Looking at the Jewish Journey Through

Western Civilization" (December 10), Temple Beth El (Flint) cantor Aleksandr Chernyak leads a "Hanukkah Party Sing-Along" (December 17), and all seniors are invited to share a personal experience or anecdote for a program entitled "I Bet You Didn't Know This About Me" (December 24 & 31). At noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors). At 1 p.m., Current Events, a discussion group led by nonagenarian Ben Bagdade. The weekly program concludes with Senior Literary Group (2-3 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. All invited. 10 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

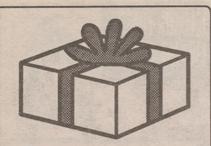
★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. Every Thursday (except December 24 & 31). Barnes & Noble staffers present storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 2-9. Today's topic: "Fractured Fairy Tales." Also this month: "Hanukkah & Winter Stories" (December 10) and "Christmas & Kwanzaa Stories" (December 17). 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washte-naw. Free. 677-6475.

★Wee Ones Storytimes: Magic Carpet Books & Wonders. Every Thursday & Saturday through December 19. A half hour of stories and fun for kids ages 2-4 accompanied by a parent. 11 a.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free.

*Michigan League Tour: The Friends of the Michigan League. Docent-led tour that covers everything from the Michigan League's gorgeous Pewabic tile and stained glass to its importance in the history of women at the U-M. 11 a.m., Michigan League. Free. 647-7463.

*Weekly Meeting: Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North. Thursday (except December 24 & 31) Speakers and topics to be announced. All invited.





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★"Rich Nation, No Army: Politics, History, and National Identity in Postwar Japan": U-M Center for Japanese Studies. Talk by WMU political science professor Steven Befell. Noon, 1636 School of Social Work Bldg., 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

*Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. Every Thursday (except December 24). Choral and instrumental performance by the Borodin Medical Scholars and The Voices of Healing, two groups of musically talnted med students. Also this month, Dr. Thomas Clark leads a workshop on making cut-paper snowflakes (December 10 in the Taubman Lobby) and the hospital-employee chorus Counterpoint performs seasonal tunes (December 17). 12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.

*"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. December 3, 10, & 17. Today: "Going Solo," a program of Christmas music by the church's vocal soloists, including sopranos Julia Broxholm and Lorna Hildebrandt, alto Sally Carpenter, and tenor Gerry Leckrone. The se-ries also includes "Ring Gloria!" (December 10), a handbell concert by the church's Gloria Ringers and nctus Ringers, and a program of "Carols & Anthems" (December 17) by the church's chancel choir, led by First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn. Lunch buffet (\$4) available beginning 11:45 a.m. 12:30-1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

"Folk Art of Brazil": ArtVentures Studio (Ann Arbor Art Center). Every Thursday through Sur day. Children and parents are invited to make art projects associated with Brazilian culture. 1-6 p.m. (Thurs.), 1-9 p.m. (Fri.), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Sat.), noon-5 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Extended holiday hours (1-6 p.m.) Decem ber 21-23 and 28-30; closed December 24, 25, 30, & 31. Admission \$4 per hour (for a maximum of hours). Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults assisting a child admitted free. Free admission the first Sunday of each month. 994–8004.

*"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. Thursday (except December 24 & 31). A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 9). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 min utes, each segment features one or two speakers (with no more than two graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. Access Soapbox shows are aired daily for one week-beginning on Sunday. 2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center, Suite LL114, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tuesday through Friday of the week preceding your appearance. 769-7422

*"Tea at Three": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited for tea, cookies, and conversation. 3-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

*Derek Walcott: U-M English Department Visiting Writers Series/Office of the President. Lecture this renowned poet and Nobel laureate (see 2 Wednesday). 5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764-6296.

*"Images of Everyday Life": Kerrytown Concert House. Opening reception for an exhibit of watercolors and pastels by local artists Edith Maynard and Teresa Freed. Exhibit runs through January 3 5–7 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–2999.

*Bimonthly Meeting: Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge. December 3 & 17. Networking meetings for women who have interrupted their careers to care for their children. Tonight: cussion on the "Best of . . . (restaurants, books, movies, etc.)" and a cookie exchange. Also this month: a games night (December 17). 7-9 p.m.. Genesis Foundation, Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 763–8714. 913–2455.

*Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters. Every Thursday (except December 24 & 31). Members develop public-speaking skills in a supportive environment. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Note: Different Toast-masters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). 7–9 p.m., 777 Bldg. dining room, 777 E. Eisenhower at S. State. Free to visitors. Dues:



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"Resources to Build Websites": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on overview of resources available on the Internet for developing your own homepage. Open to all AADL cardholders. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327-4550.

*"Curating in Detroit at the Turn of the Millennium": U-M School of Art & Design. Panel discussion with Cranbrook Art Museum director Gregory Wittkopp, DIA curator Mary Ann Wilkinson, and U-M Museum of Art director James Steward. 7 p.m., U-M Art & Architecture Auditorium (room 2104), 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 763-4417.

*Monthly Meeting: Community Action on Substance Abuse. All invited to help plan substance abuse prevention activities with this local grassroots volunteer group. 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 995–3782, 973–7892.

*"Views from the Sleeping Bear": Barnes & No-ble. Photographer Thomas Kachadurian is on hand to sign copies of his new book of more than 100 color photographs of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6475.

*"Sexuality and Spirituality: Exploring the Connections": Guild House Campus Ministry. Every Thursday (except December 24 & 31). Discussion group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folks. 7-8 p.m., 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662-5189.

*"Coffee Hour": Druids of Shining Lakes **Grove.** All invited to join members of this local pagan group for coffee and discussion. 7 p.m., Sweetwaters Cafe, 123 W. Washington at S. Ashley. Free. 434-7444.

*Dan Piraro: Borders Books and Music. The author of the syndicated cartoon *Bizarro* reads from his new book, *Bizarro Among the Savages: A Relatively Form* amous Guy's Experiences on the Road and in the Homes of Strangers, a travelogue-memoir about a recent book tour during which he was hosted by fans from California to Florida. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

*Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 1 Tuesday. Tonight: the vocal and guitar duo Solstice. 7 p.m.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Jaycees. All people ages 21-39 are invited to join this organization devoted to promoting leadership training, community service, and individual development. Discussion topics to be announced. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., room 101, 4800 E. Huron River Dr.

*"The Hypnotic Solution to Stress Management: How to Quickly and Easily Get More Relaxation into Your Life Without Taking More Time Out of It's: Counseling Resources of Ann Arbor. Talk by local hypnotherapist Anne Mininberg. Also this month, Mininberg discusses "How Hypnosis Can Enable You to Lower Your Blood Pressure" (December 10). 7:30–8:30 p.m., location to be announced, Free. Reservations requested, 665–7813.

*"Thinking on Paper": U-M Museum of Art. U-M Residential College art history lecturer Thomas Willette talks about drawings as a means of creation and exploration. In conjunction with the current exhibit Master Drawings from the Worcester Art Museum. 7:30 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-0395.

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday (except December 24 & 31). Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). \$3. 769-4324.

★"Oz's Open Mike": Oz's Music. All musicians invited. Cohosted by local singer-songwriters Lili Fox and Shell. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.

*Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Ski Club. December 3 & 17. All invited to learn about the ski club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Tonight's meeting is followed by a dance. Newcomers welcome. Must be 21 or older. Also, AASC hosts a night out at Amer's First Street Grill on December 12 (call for details), and a Christmas dance December 18 (see listing). 8 p.m., Schwaben Halle, 217 S. Ashley. Free. 439–1102.

*"Legends of the Plumed Serpent: Biography of a Mexican God": Shaman Drum Bookshop. National Book Foundation executive director Neil Baldwin reads from his recently published book, a lavishly illustrated study of the myth of Quetzalcoatl. Following the reading, Baldwin signs copies of his books. Refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

*Creative Arts Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Ed Sarath directs this U-M student ensemble in varied jazz improvisations. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

*Lorna McGhee: U-M School of Music. Solo recital by this visiting U-M flute professor, co-principal flutist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

Block: Kerrytown Concert House. Debut of this jazz quartet led by local drummer Aaron Siegel. Other members are local reedist Andrew Bishop, local bassist Tim Flood, and trombonist Jacob Garchik, a New York-based artist who has performed at the Blue Note and the Knitting Formed formed at the Blue Note and the Knitting Factory, and who has backed everyone from Lee Konitz to Elvis Costello. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$7 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Arlo Guthrie: The Ark. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. December 3-6. Mitch Gillett directs this accomplished local town-and-gown com-pany in Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operetta spoof-ing the excesses and moral libertinism of the Pre-Raphaelite movement that swept England in the 1870s. The plot concerns one Reginald Bunthorne, a pretentious aesthete who affects a love of poetry and art simply to impress the local maidens. He succeeds in winning the admiration of all except the refreshingly unsophisticated milkmaid Patience—who happens to be the only woman he's interested in. Pa-tience remains faithful to her childhood sweetheart, Archibald Grosvenor, who woos her (and irritates Bunthorne) with his sincere, properly Victorian idyl-lic verses. Meanwhile the local dragoons are dismayed that their girlfriends all pine for Bunthorne The farce is happily resolved in the end, and all finally get what they deserve. *Patience* is known mainly for its extravagant comic energy and many memorable tunes, including "The Soldiers of Our Queen" and "In a Doleful Train." Cast includes Mi-

Handel's essa

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Thomas Sheets, conductor Kathleen Brett, soprano

Ellen Rabiner, contralto Gordon Gietz, tenor Dean Peterson, bass

Sat, Dec 58 P.M. Sun, Dec 62 P.M.

Hill Auditorium

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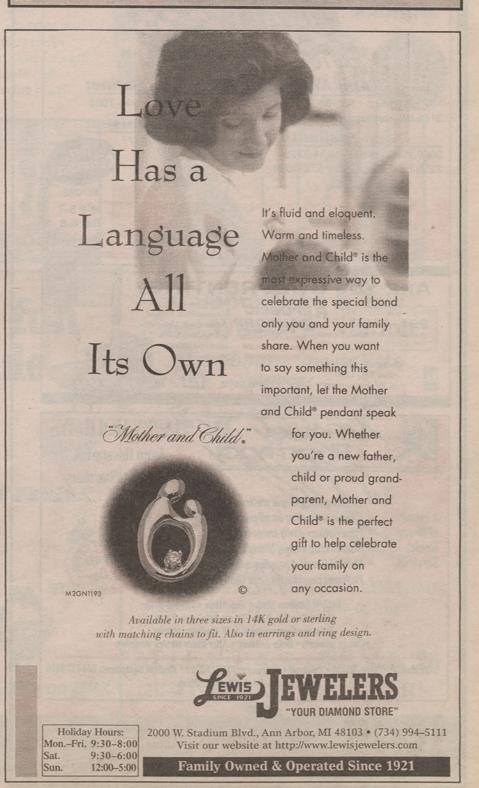
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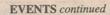
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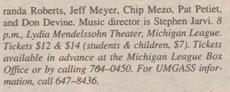
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"Volpone": U-M Theater Department. December 3–6. U-M drama professor John Neville-Andrews directs U-M drama students in Ben Jonson's Jacobean comedy, a delightfully sour satire about an outrageously wealthy old coot who eventually gets his comeuppance after milking the variously creepy relatives and hangers-on who vie for his affection in the hope of someday inheriting some of his fortune. A good tonic for playgoers already overdosing on holiday cheer. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$14 & \$18 (students, \$7) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.

"Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. December 3-6 & 10-13. Performance Network production manager Dan Walker directs the Michigan premiere of former Jeffersons scriptwriter William Missouri Downs's steamy 2-person courtroom drama about the relationship between an African-American lawyer and a Jewish anthropologist. The lawyer has hired the anthropologist as an expert witness in a 20-year-old murder case the lawyer has been hired to make sure goes unsolved. They quickly discover that they knew each other as children growing up in a Chicago suburb, and in the course of their conversations about the case the two men force each other to confront their sense of personal integrity and to rediscover what it means to them. Stars Monrico Ward and Troy Sill. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$12; Thursdays, whatever you can afford to pay) in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Jeff Shaw: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 3–5. This young stand-up comic from Cleveland is known for his biting, refreshingly bright observational humor and his flair for verbal gymnastics. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.

Sat 8-5

*Sun 10-4

★Weekly Meeting: Shorinji Kempo. Every Thursday (except December 24). All invited to try this Japanese self-defense system, which combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. Club members also meet weekly for noncompetitive practice. 8:30–10 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. at W. Huron. Free to first-time visitors (\$25 monthly dues). 332–1780.

The Derek Trucks Band: Prism Productions. Jam-oriented Southern blues and blues-rock by this band led by slide guitar prodigy Trucks, the 18-year-old nephew of Allman Brothers Band drummer Butch Trucks. Trucks has recorded with Tinsley Elis, and he's played with the likes of Bob Dylan and Buddy Guy. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticket-master outlets; \$10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.

MTF. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

4 FRIDAY

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. December 4 & 5. This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations (artificial Christmas trees, tested sets of tree lights, candles, etc.), all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, coats, and lots of good quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665-0450.

Annual British Town and Country Christmas Bazaar: Toad Hall. December 4-6 & 11-13. Imported British foods, clothing, gifts, hand-painted antiques, and holiday decorations. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Toad Hall, 703 Wildwood Lane. Free admission. 426-6113.

*16th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. December 4-7. One of Ann Arbor's most popular

Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit is highlighted this year by more than 100 creches bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatrician who died in 1997. Carroll's collection features an 18th-century prese-pio, a Baroque creche tradition sustained by both the Neapolitan royalty and church that features woodand-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the creche exhibit includes almost 900 creches (Nativity scenes) from 81 countries collected or designed by women of the church. It features rooms devoted to miniature creches and a 'touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, and paper, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. They range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to creches with 18-inch figures. Also, a Christmas tree decorated with handmade orna Today's program includes a concert of **Christmas music** (7:30–8:30 p.m.) featuring a duet by vocalist Edith Hedquist and flutist Paul Fader and solo performances by organist Karen Madsen, string bassist Nicholas Johnson, French horn player Laurel Thompson, vocalist Jennifer Larsen, and Scott Larsen, who either sings or plays cello. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665-7852, 668-2477, 663-3699 (days).

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Artisans' Holiday Open House. December 4–6. Display and sale of beaded jewelry, pottery, stained glass, gingerbread houses, folk art, toys, ornaments, and more made by local artists. Refreshments and door prizes. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 11 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), 1316 Hutchins (off Stadium 1 block east of Seventh St.). Free admission. 769–6234.

*"Ships Ahoy": EMU Music Department. This children's concert features the EMU Wind Symphony in Francis McBeth's Of Sailors and Whales: Five Scenes from Melville, with narration by retired EMU theater professor Harry Bowen. Also, the EMU Symphony Orchestra in a program of works with a seafaring theme to be announced. 10 a.m. & 12:15 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. Group reservations suggested. 487–2248.

★Brown Bag Lectures: U-M Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies. December 4 & 11. Today's speaker and topic to be announced. Also, U-M natural resources professor Richard Tucker discusses "Local People and the Politics of Diversity: Conservation in Great Himalayan National Park, India" (December 11). Noon, 1664 School of Social Work Bldg., 1080 South University. Free. 764–0352.

★"Beyond the Essene Hypothesis: The Parting of the Ways Between Qumran and Enochic Judaism": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party. U-M Near Eastern studies professor Gabriele Boccaccini is on hand to sign copies of his recently published study of the Qumran sect, the ancient desert community associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. Refreshments. 4-6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

*"American Independence in Atlantic Perspective": U-M Clements Library. December 4 & 11. Last 2 in a series of 6 informal fall lectures by noted historians of early America, in conjunction with the Clements's current exhibit on the American Revolution. Today: Wayne State history professor Sam Scott talks about "American Independence, Rochambeau's Army, and the French Revolution." Also this month: University of Colorado history professor Fred Anderson talks about "The Significance of the Seven Years War in American History" (December 11). 4 p.m., U-M Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764-2347.

★"A Holiday Evening in Saline": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Saline pulls out the stops to welcome Old St. Nick with a parade down Michigan Avenue ending in a tree-lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival (7 p.m.). Other festivities include a pre-parade party (4:30–6:30 p.m., Saline Shopping Center) with merchant giveaways and live entertainment. Also, an open house at the Saline Depot Museum (5–7 p.m.), and sidewalk entertainment by strolling musicians, carolers, dancers, Mrs. Santa Claus, and elves. After the tree lighting, view live reindeer and have your photo taken with Santa at Santa's Village (8 p.m., Chamber of Commerce, 141 E. Michigan). Also, a concert by the award-winning Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic (8 p.m., Union School). Free shuttle buses run between sites. 4:30–10 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.

3rd Annual Senior Ball and Holiday Celebration: HGS Home Care. All seniors and their friends invited to enjoy a buffet dinner with live music by the a cappella singers Amazin' Blue, followed by dancing to 40s and 50s tunes spun by DJ Dale Williams. Formal attire optional. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Ypsilanti



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Marriott, 1275 S. Huron St. (off 1-94 at exit 183), Ypsilanti. Admission \$12 (age 55 & over) & \$25 (under age 55). Reservations requested. Transporta-tion assistance available. 973–1345.

*"Midnight Madness": State Street Area Association. Strolling entertainers and a candy cane-toting Santa add to the festive atmosphere tonight, as downtown merchants stay open late with special sales. Sleigh rides or hay rides are tentatively sched-uled to run between State St. and South University. 6 p.m.-midnight, downtown Ann Arbor. Free.

*"Taste of Kerrytown": Kerrytown Shops. Kerrytown food merchants and restaurants set up out-door grills and offer taste samples of their specialties, including baked goods from Kav's Kafe, baby back ribs and Korean specialties from Kosmo Deli, Tracklements' smoked fish, gourmet sausages from Sparrow's Meat Market. Also, beer and wine tasting, special sales, live entertainment, and more. 6 p.m.-midnight, Kerrytown Shops. Free. 662-5008.

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*Open Card and Board Gaming Night: The Underworld. Every Friday (except December 25). All invited to play any of the collectible card or board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. 6 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998-0547.

*11th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea. December 4–6. This popular community celebration offers a variety of family activities and festive window displays in downtown shops. Tonight: a tree-lighting ceremony (6:30 p.m. Pierce Park). Santa is available to meet kiddies and pose for photos in two places at once (6–8:30 p.m., UAW Hall and Village Plaza). Also, a living Nativity complete with live animals (7–8:30 p.m., next to the library), cookie decorating, hayrides, and woodcarving demonstrations by Marilyn Dusbiber (7-9 p.m., Village Shoppe). Dance Arts Performing Ensemble offers ballet excerpts from the *Nutcracker* (7–9 p.m., First Congregational Church). Finally, the community carol sing (9 p.m., train depot). 6–9:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. (800) 265–9045.

*"Interlacing": Warren Robbins Center for Graduate Studies (U-M School of Art and De-sign). Opening reception for this exhibit of experimental woven samples designed for industrial production by U-M art grad student Jarupatcha Achavasmit. The show runs December 1-14. 6:30-9:30 p.m., U-M School of Art and Design Warren Robbins Center, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 764-0397.

*"3 Dimensions, 2 Scales, 1 Designer": U-M Slusser Gallery. Opening reception for this exhibit of jewelry, product designs, and home furnishings by award-winning local artist Staci Kerman. The show runs December 2-14. 6:30-9:30 p.m., U-M Art & Architecture Bldg. Slusser Gallery, 2000 Bon-isteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 936–2082,

*"Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad": U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team prepares for the 1998–1999 NCAA season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). De-Dances of Universal Peace (Sun Dancing). December 4 & 18. All invited to join in simple dancing to chants and songs from various spiritual and religious traditions. Beginners welcome. 7-9 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. \$5 requested donation. For information, call Majid at (\$17) 381-0126 or Siddiq and Majida at 996-1332.

*Mitch Albom: Borders Books and Music. This popular Detroit Free Press sports columnist and WIR afternoon host reads from Tuesdays with Morrie, his best-selling chronicle of his long friendship with his with his teacher and mentor, Brandeis University so-ciology professor Morrie Schwartz. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.

*"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association. December 4, 11, & 18. Ann Ar-bor's downtown area is filled tonight with strolling entertainers, and many stores are open late with spe-cial sales. Trees are lit with strings of holiday lights. Those who want to perform themselves can join the Kempf House caroling party (see below). 7–9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

*Caroling Party: Kempf House Center for Local History. All invited to gather at this historic home and warm up your voices around the newly tuned 1877 Steinway piano before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols accompanied by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider and cookies. 7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.

"Orson Welles Weekend": U-M Film and Video Studies Program/Program in American Culture. December 4-6. Welles collaborator and cinematographer Gary Graver and his wife, Jillian Graver, Holiday parties & wedding receptions in a beautiful country setting.

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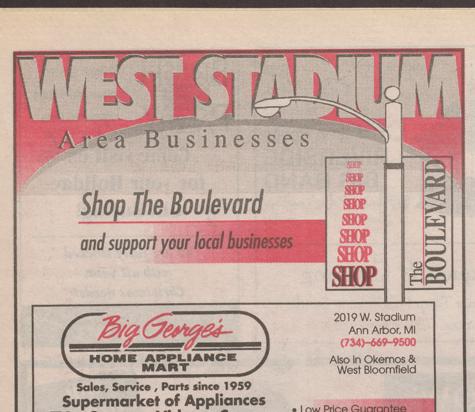


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visit Ann Arbor this weekend to discuss the films of Orson Welles and host special screenings of the great director's films and related film clips. Tonight's session: Graver introduces a showing of The Trial (1962), Welles's adaptation of Kafka's novel. 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. \$6.50 (children, students, & seniors, \$5; MTF members, \$4.50) per session; \$25 (students & MTF members, \$20) includes admission to all sessions. 668-8480.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 1

U-M Women's Basketball vs. CMU. 7:30 p.m. Crisler Arena. \$5 (youths under 18, \$3). 764-0247.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. Every Friday (except December 25). All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Tap Room. \$2 (students, \$1). 996-1433.

21st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. December 4-6. A cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death. Originating in medieval England, the Boar's Head festival is a spectacle that combines religious pageantry and sec-ular pomp, set to musical narration and full orchestra. It offers colorfully dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other characters from the medieval court, along with the traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. A highlight of the festival is the presentation of a roasted wild boar. The ferocious beast came to symbolize Satan, and its slaying represented the triumph of good over evil. A holiday dinner is served before tomorrow's performance. This immensely popular event sells out in advance year after year, so get your tickets early. 7:30 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$10 (ages 18 & under, \$6; December 5 dinner & performance, \$35) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. 995-4612.

*Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. December 4 & 18. All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book, Karmic Relationships, Vol. III & IV. (This book is out of print, but copies are available to borrow.) Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway (one block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662-6398.

"Drum Circle." Every Friday (except December 25). A blend of celebration, exploration, and meditation through drumming, voice, and dance. Beginners welcome. All invited. 8–10 p.m., Gallup Park meeting room (next to the canoe livery), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). \$2 donation.

First Friday Square and Contra Dance. Dancing to live music by Licketysplit, with local callers John Freeman and John Walker. All dances taught; beginners and older children welcome. No partner necessary. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Ar--Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$6 (children, \$3) at the door. 665-8405.

Michael Cooney: The Ark. Often referred to as a "one-man folk festival," Cooney, who performs in a children's concerts on December 6 (see listing), has long been one of the Ark's most popular attractions He plays nearly a dozen instruments extremely well, he's a fine singer, and his performances draw on a vast repertoire of alternately good-time and moving folk songs. A superb entertainer, Cooney fleshes out his shows with a variety of great jokes and stories. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. \$12.50 (members, stu-& seniors, \$11.50) at the door only.

"Ghost of the River House": EMU Theater of the Young. December 4 & 5. EMU drama professor Karen Smith-Meyer directs EMU students in Michigan playwright Max Bush's drama about an 11-yearold girl who meets a beautiful ghost while searching the ruins of her ancestral home for its legendary treasure with her grandfather. She is shown both the treasure and family secrets that help her grow closer to her aloof father. Aimed at theatergoers ages 7 older. 8 p.m., Sponberg Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets \$5 for all shows for children ages 7-12. Adult tickets \$10 (Fri. & Sat. evenings), \$8 (Sat. matinee) in advance; \$12 (Fri. & Sat. evenings), \$10 (Sat. matinee) at the door. Group discounts available. 487-1221.

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Volpone": U-M Theater Department. See 3

"Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. See 3 Thursday. 8

Jeff Shaw: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. December 4 & 18. Dancing to taped music, including worldbeat, funk, rap, R&B, soul, alternative rock 'n' roll, new folk, and pop. Also, occasional live drum-ming. An alternative to the bar scene for people who love to dance. All are invited to bring cassette tapes and acoustic musical instruments. Smoke-free, no alcohol. Dance barefoot or bring dancing shoes. Come with or without a dance partner; all ages welcome. 10 p.m., People Dancing Studio, 111 Third St. (west Wheelchair-accessible. 459-8136, 996-2405.

CCS. "Spring Festival" (Huang Jianzhong, 1989). This tragicomedy about the disruptions triggered by the advent of consumerism is set in a snowbound small town in the far north of China, where an aged couple await the arrival of their grown children to celebrate the New Year. Mandarin, subtitles. FREE. Children under 12 not admitted. AH-A, 8 p.m. CJS. "Ghost in the Shell" (Mamoru Oshii, 1995). Japanese anime film set in a futuristic hi-tech world where humans coexist with cyborgs. FREE. Lorch, 7 p.m. FV. Orson Welles Weekend. See Events listing above. Mich., 7 p.m. MTF. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). See 1 Tuesday. Mich.,

5 SATURDAY

Holiday Open House: Nielsen's. December 5 & 6. Display and sale of numerous greens, poinsettias, and other plants, Christopher Radko ornaments, and more. Refreshments. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (December 5), 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (December 6), Nielsen's, 1021 Maiden Lane. Free admission. 994-6112.

*"Homeopathic First Aid": People's Food Co-op Naturopathy Series. Talk by Natural Health Care Clinic (Livonia) director Kenneth Pittaway, author of Homeopathic First Aid and Recipes for Life. 9-11:30 a.m., Courthouse Square Apartments solar-ium (11th floor), 100 S. Fourth Ave. at Huron. Free. Preregistration required. 769-0095.

"Web Walk": Ann Arbor District Library. Hands-on introduction to the basics of the Internet, the World Wide Web, and the Netscape browser. Participants also explore the library's Youth Page. Open to all kids grades 1-5 and their parents. 9 a.m. Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327-4550.

Saline Community Education Craft Show. More than 100 crafters from throughout the Midwest offer decorative painting, stoneware, rugs, birdhouses, holiday decorating ideas, ceramics, calligraphy, clothing, and more at affordable prices. Also, Christmas greens, baked goods, and food concessions, and Saline High School souvenirs. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7625 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd., Saline Admission \$2. Wheelchair-accessible; no strollers allowed. 429-5922.

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29th Annual Ski Swap: U-M Alpine Ski Team. December 5. Sale of used cross-country and downhill skis and ski equipment, along with some inventory from local ski shops. Also, snowboards, in-line skates, ice skates, and other winter sports gear. Sellers must bring in items for sale on December 4, 4-9 p.m. The U-M Alpine Ski team takes a commission on all sales. 9 a.m.—4 p.m., U-M Coliseum, Hill at S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 332–0984, 764–6708.

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. December 5 & 6. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. 9 a.m.-noon (December 5) & 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (December 6), Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheel-chair-accessible (use entrance in back of the church). 663-0362.

*Holiday Entertainment: Kerrytown Shops. Every Saturday and Sunday through December 20. Local jazz performers add to the festive holiday atmosphere on weekends. Includes periodic performances by 13-year-old fiddler Jeremy Kittel, the 1998 National Junior Scottish Fiddling Champion. On Saturdays, guitarist Jake Reichbart (11 a.m.-1 p.m.), guitarist Neil Mattson with a trumpeter to be announced (1-4 p.m.), and a Community High jazz ensemble (4-6 p.m.). Santa is on hand to greet kid-dies (9 a.m.-4 p.m.). On Sundays, cellist Thomas Gregory and a violinist to be announced (noon-3

folk music



Arlo Guthrie Fishing downstream from Dylan

If Woodstock was a defining moment for a generation, then the voice that defined it as it happened was Arlo Guthrie's. He announced, "The New York State Thruway's closed, man!" and told the crowd that there were a "million and a half here by tonight," sharing the news that this was indeed a historic gathering.

Guthrie wasn't new to history. The son of legendary folksinger Woody Guthrie, Arlo was raised around music-yet he originally aspired to be a forest ranger. "At eighteen, I'd already decided I didn't like most people I'd met, so [being a forest ranger] sounded good . . . and I liked the hat," he joked during an October 1997 Ark performance. There

were a lot of laughs that evening-in fact, if Guthrie wanted to give up music entirely, he'd make a great stand-up comedian.

Those of us old enough to remember the young Arlo might have startled at the sight of a slightly chunkier version of the 1960s singer, with his curly ponytail still long but now completely gray. But the distinctive speaking and singing voice remain as familiar as ever. Comparisons to another 1960s folksinger, Bob Dylan, were brought up by Guthrie several times during the evening, "I don't know anything about songwriting," he said. "Songwriting is like clouds floating by, like fields against the said. like fishes swimming along . . . you got a rod and reel, and you catch 'em. Problem is, you don't want to be downstream from Bob Dy-Sometimes I think about saying, 'Hey, Bob, can't you throw some of the small ones back in?' "The crowd roared. At another point, Guthrie brought out a ukulele and mused, "What if Bob Dylan played all of his tunes on the ukulele?" He then offered a ukulele rendition of "All Along the Watchtower." Many in the crowd giggled at the improbable combo of instrument and tune.

No evening with Arlo Guthrie would be complete without a performance of "Alice's Restaurant," the tale of a hippie-era Thanksgiving that's become his signature—"I've been reliving the same twenty-five minutes for the last thirty years," he joked. If Guthrie's grown weary of performing the song and telling the story, he didn't show it, and the audience joined in enthusiastically on the song's refrain. I won't give away his joke about the song's place in history, but it alone is reason enough to catch him in concert.

"I don't have a plan," Guthrie said as he settled onto a stool on the stage that night. It seemed the right beginning for a wonderful, casual evening listening to stories and songs from a man clearly comfortable in his own skin. Arlo Guthrie returns to the Ark on Wednesday and Thursday, December 2 and 3.

-Mary Carlson-Mason

p.m.), and a Community High jazz ensemble (3-5 p.m.). 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Saturday) & noon-5 p.m. (Sunday), Kerrytown Shops. Free admission. 662-5008.

*11th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea. See 4 Friday. Today: a craft show (10 a.m.-4 p.m., First Congregational Church), guided tours of historic downtown Chelsea (1 & 2 p.m.), and an enactment of German Christmas stories (11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Pierce's Pastries). Hours: 9 a.m.-5

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Sale of handmade toys and ornaments made by school parents according to Rudolf Steiner's educational principles, a bake sale, and silent auction of various items. Also, a bookstore featuring Steiner's anthroposophic writings; a children's activity corner where kids can make beeswax candles and decorate cookies; and a kidsonly gift room, with gifts priced for children's budgets. Caroling, hot cider, tea room, lunch, and entertainment of the cookies and performance of the cookies and the cookies and a kidsonly gift room, with gifts priced for children's budget of the cookies and a kidsonly gift room, with gifts priced for children's budget of the cookies and a kidsonly gift room, with gifts priced for children's budget of the cookies and a kidsonly gift room, with gifts priced for children's budget of the cookies and a kidsonly gift room, with gifts priced for children's budgets. ainment, including a children's theater and performance cafe. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer Questions about the school. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995-4141.

Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. December 5 & 12. A chance—probably your only chance—to have your pet's photo taken with Santa Claus. Dogs must be leashed, and other pets must be transported in a carrier. Proceeds to benefit the Humane Society. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Riverside Lawn, Garden, & Pet Supply, 5 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. \$8 for one 3 1/4" x 4 1/4" matted photo or two wallet-sized photos, \$15 for all three photos. Appointments required. 662–5585, ext. 103.

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new, including Winnie-the-Pooh on Problem Solving, Reel: The World of Women Who Fish, 50 Years of People's Religious Ceremonies, the humorous bird-Watching book Down and Dirty Birding, and a 6hour video set of *The Great Battles of World War II*. A separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit of 3 children's books per family) includes everything from *The Icky Bug Counting Book* and Shel Silverstein's *Falling Up* to Calvin & Hobbes and Garfield comic books. Also, Christmas records. Proceeds to support library projects. Note: The Book Shop is also open on December 6, 12, & 13. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchairaccessible. Free admission. 994-2333.

*"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday & Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 10 a.m. (Saturdays only) & 1 p.m. (both days), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913–9851.

*"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to help city parks Natural Area Preservation Division staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Bring work gloves. Today: A trip to Leslie Science Center to clean seeds collected earlier in the season in preparation for storage or sowing. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 996-3266.

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 5 & 6. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Offers a diverse range of functional and decorative ceramics by some 40 local artists, in high-fired stoneware, porcelain, and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663-4970.

★Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen: Nicola's Books. The illustrator of Kathy-jo Wargin's acclaimed *The Legend of Sleeping Bear* gives a drawing demonstration and signs copies of the locally published book. 10 a.m.-noon, Nicola's Books (Little Professor).

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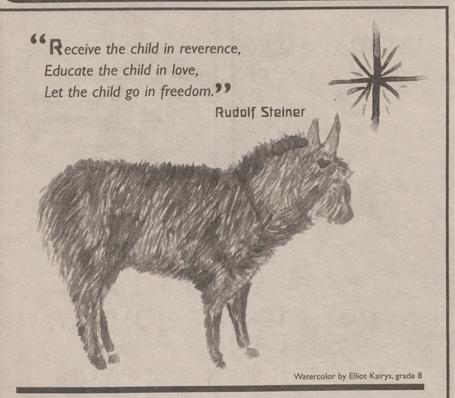
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For more information about our program, please join us for an Introductory Evening.

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December 8, 1998 7:30 pm High School 2309 Packard Road 669.9394

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EVENTS continued

Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

★"Advocating for Michigan Public Education": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Panel discussion with three Michigan for Education board members: WMU education professor Ellen Brinkley, Kalamazoo Public Schools librarian Jean Williams, and Pen Campbell, an English teacher at a Catholic school in St. Joseph. Followed at noon by a potluck lunch; bring a dish to pass. Gray Panthers is an intergenerational group dedicated to improving life for people of all ages. Refreshments. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free.

★"Deck the Halls with Dinosaurs!": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day. Highlights include various "claws-on" activities, including making your own "Triassic T-shirt" (\$7, \$2 if you bring your own T-shirt). Magician Marvin Mathena (noon-2 p.m.) does dinosaur-related tricks. Also, demonstrations exploring "What Did Dinosaurs Eat for Lunch," and showings of the claymation film *Donosaur! 10* a.m.—4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free. 764-0478.

*16th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 4 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

*"Arb Walk": Grex. Every Saturday. All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk from Gallup Park through the U-M Arboretum. 10:15 a.m., meet in Gallup Park parking lot, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free 930-6564.

"Diamond in the Sky"/"Light Years from Andromeda": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday & Sunday through December 13. "Diamond in the Sky" (10:30 & 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the mythology associated with the constellations currently visible in the sky, narrated by Detroit Free Press sports columnist and WJR personality Mitch Albom. "Light Years from Andromeda" (12:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 3:30 p.m. on both days) is an audiovisual show narrated by actor Michael Dorn (best known as Worf on Star Trek) that shows the changes that occurred on Earth during the 2.8 million years it took a light beam to travel from Andromeda. Note: A new show begins December 19 (see listing). 10:30 & 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. \$3.25 (seniors & children 12 & under, \$3). "Light Years from Andromeda" is not recommended for kids under 7.

*"Physics and Pharmaceuticals": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics." December 5 & 12. 2nd & 3rd in a series of three multimedia talks by U-M medical school biological chemistry postdoctoral fellow Jeanne Stuckey. Topics include the use of X-ray crystallography to peer into the atomic structure of cellular processes and the way this knowledge can help create therapies for cancer or AIDS. Followed by a question-and-answer period. Part of a popular semester-long series of talks on cutting-edge research by U-M physicists aimed at general audiences. 10:30-11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison Bldg., 501 East University. Free.

*"Magazine Editors Talk to Young Adults": Ann Arbor District Library Young Adult Advisory Board. Dyan Logwood, former editor of HUES Magazine for young women (originally published in Ann Arbor), and Car & Driver editor/writer Larry Webster discuss the publishing world and their respective magazines. Geared toward high school students. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994-2342.

★"Watercolors by Greg Sobran." December 5-13. Exhibit of this local artist's paintings from recent trips to Cuba, France, Martha's Vineyard, Key West, and northern Michigan. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., the little schoolhouse at the corner of Wagner and Ellsworth (in front of Turner's Greenhouses). Free.

★"Children's Storytime": Nicola's Books. Every Saturday. Storytellers Eric Engel and Pam "Mama Moon" Crisovan alternate weekly in presenting tales, crafts, and other activities for kids ages 4-10. On December 12, a visit from Corduroy Bear (noon-12:30 p.m.). 11 a.m.-noon. Nicola's Books (Little Professor), Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

★"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music. Every Saturday (except December 26). Borders staff and guests read stories and lead activities for kids ages 4-10. Today: a visit from The Cat in the Hat. Also this month: Annette Bowman as the Christmas

Fairy (December 12) and ArtVentures staff with craft projects from Brazil (December 19). 11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

★Wee Ones Storytimes: Magic Carpet Books & Wonders. See 3 Thursday. 11 a.m.

Monthly Meeting: Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser. Potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 and older. Bring a dish to pass. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic, 1010

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at Hudson Mills Metropark's 18-hole disc golf course. Disc golf is a popular new sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: \$3 per vehicle.) 996-0212,

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring this brass quintet made up of area professionals, who perform seasonal music, classics, and pop tunes, concluding with a sing-along to Han-del's "Hallelujah" chorus. Croissants, coffee, and juice served. 11 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$9 & \$12. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★"Dexter's Victorian Christmas": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. December 5 & 12. The Dexter of days gone by is resurrected as actors, carolers, and other musicians dressed in Victorian cos-tume stroll the streets, and merchants dressed in period costume host special open houses. Mail letters to Santa in a special mailbox and a reply is guaranteed. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (\$2) available throughout the day, with extra evening sleigh rides December 5 (5-8 p.m.). Also, Civil War reenact-ments, and Father Christmas holds court in the Dexter park gazebo (11 a.m.-5 p.m.). Other entertainment includes a Young People's Theater production of *The Gift of the Magi* (hourly, noon-4 p.m.), song and dance by the YPT Troubadours (1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m.), juggler Ryan Smith (11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 4:30 p.m.), and the barbershop quartet Mutual Accord (3 p.m., December 5; 2 p.m., December 12). 11 a.m.-5 p.m., downtown Dexter. Free admission. 426-5514.

"The Gifts of Christmas Past: A Handmade Tra-dition": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. December & 6. This mid-19th-century pioneer homestead is decked out with Victorian-style decorations. Cos-turned guides offer tours and discuss 1800s farm life. Attractions include music played on an authentic melodeon, cooking demonstrations on an antique wood stove, hot cider and cookies for visitors, and a chance to explore the farm grounds and barn. Also, a gift shop with old-fashioned toys, books, handmade soaps and candles, and more. 1-5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take 1-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) Admission \$1 (students & children, free). 426-4980, 769-2219.

"Sound Off!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Monthly Demonstration. Every Saturday and Sun-day. Museum staff offer fun, educational demos on the properties of sound. Kids can "become" a sound wave, see the waves produced by a bass drum, and learn what an explosion in space sounds like. Also, the museum offers special holiday programs December 28-31 (see listings). 1 & 3 p.m. (Saturdays), 2 & 4 p.m. (Sundays), Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, Huron St. at Fifth Ave. Museum admission: \$5 (adults), \$3 (students, seniors, & children). Group discounts available. 995–5439.

German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History. December 5, 6, 12, & 13. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German-American celebration of Christmas. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$1, 994-4898.

"Snakes Alive": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). A chance for kids ages 4-6 to meet and learn about a variety of snakes, turtles, and toads. Parents welcome. 1-2:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6 per child. Pre-registration required. 662–7802.

*Creative Expressions Group: Ozone House. Every Saturday. Drop-in group for gay teens, teens of gay parents, and straight friends to participate in art projects, discussion, and fun. 1-4 p.m., Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw. Free. For infor-mation, call Connie at 975-9841 or E-mail creative.expressions@juno.com

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*"Brewery Tour and Tasting": Brewbakers. Every Saturday. All invited to tour this local microbrewery, learn how it makes Scotch ale, German Helles, and other beers and ales, and taste some of the results. 2 p.m., Brewbakers, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (below Workbench), Kerrytown. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–0772.

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Hidden Lake Gardens Hike: Sierra Club. A leisurely 3-mile hike through these beautiful gardens near Tecumseh, followed by a tour of the conservatory and the opportunity to browse the gift shop and Christmas bazaar. 2 p.m., meet at City Hall parking lot, N. Fifth Ave. at Huron. Nominal entrance fee.

*"Health: More Than Just Medical Care": Packard Community Clinic. Talk by U-M School of Public Health dean Noreen Clark. Also, a panel discussion with local people involved in providing a range of health services. Part of the "Health as a Celebration of Life" series sponsored by the Packard Clinic, which provides low-cost and no-cost health care to low-income Ann Arborites. 3-5 p.m. Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Free. 971–1073.

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers/Salvation Army Advisory Board. December 5 & 6.
This local company of children and adult dancers diagrams. rected by Marjorie Randazzo and Sara Randazzo-Rodriguez presents Tchaikovsky's beloved Christ-mas ballet based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. Note: Other local productions of The Nutcracker are offered December 12 & 13 and December 18-20 (see listings). 3 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$8 (children 12 & under, \$4) in advance at Randazzo Dance Studio, Norton-Durant Flowers, local Salvation Army offices, and Dancers Boutique (Saline); and at the door. One free adult ticket with groups of 10 or more children. 747–9349, 971–3213, 668–8353.

*African-American Book Reading Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss Rosalyn McMillan's novel Blue Collar Blues. 4 p.m., Nicola's Books (Little Professor), Westgate Shopping Center. ree. For information, call Veleria Banks at (734) 942-6013.

"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animated films and TV cartoons. Includes episodes from The Heroic Legend of Arisland, Kodomo no Omocha, and Key the Metal Idol. Japanese, subtitles. There is a half-hour break midway through the showing. *U-M campus admission policy*: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. 5–11:30 p.m., Modern Languages Bldg. Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free; donations welcome. For more information, E-mail animania@umich.edu, or visit the website at www.umich.edu/~animania.

"Orson Welles Weekend": U-M Film and Video Studies Program/Program in American Culture. See 4 Friday. First session (6 p.m.): Graver shows scenes from his own documentary, Working With Orson Welles, and Graver's and Welles's collaboration F for Fake (1974). Second session (9 p.m.): The Gravers show clips of Welles's unfinished film adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice*, followed by the 90-minute documentary *Filming Othello* (1978). 6 p.m.-midnight.

"Reflections of a Winter's Night": 23rd Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. A gala evening featuring lavish decorations of gold, silver, and white. Includes cocktails and a gournet dinner, followed by the state of the people's followed by ballroom dancing to The People's Choice orchestra. This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. Proceeds benefit the hospital's Campaign for Women's Health. *Note:* All ball decorations, including Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias, and table linens, are for sale (call for information). 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m., Michigan League. \$1,000 per couple. For reservations, call 712-3192.

"Kids' Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids in kindergarten through age 10 invited to enjoy a Hawaiian luau, with Hawaiian treats, a pizza dinner, make-your-own sundae, sports in the gym, ping-pong, arts & crafts activities, movies with pop-com, and more. 6:30–10:30 p.m., Jewish Communi-ty Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$18 (JCC members, \$15), \$12 (JCC members, \$10) for additional siblings. Reservations required by December 1. 971–0990.

Open Role-Playing Gaming Night: The Underworld, Every Saturday. All invited to play any of the fole-playing games that the Underworld carries, but you must find your own opponents. 7 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. NMU. 7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$10-\$17. 764-0247.

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. December 5 & 19. Modern Western square dancing to recorded music, with caller Glen Geer. All experienced dancers invited. Refreshments. 7:30–10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor Rd. at Fourth St., Dexter. \$7 per couple. 433-0308.

6th Annual Winter Concert: Vocal Arts Ensem-6th Annual Winter Concert: Vocal Arts Ensemble. Marisa Bond directs this 16-voice chorus in a program of a cappella works spanning 400 years, from Renaissance madrigals to classical and popular works by Charles Ives, Ned Rorem, and Mel Torme. 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, corner of Catherine and N. Division. Tickets \$10 (students & seniors, \$5; children under 12, free) at the door. For group discounts, call 764–3304.

4th Annual "Evening of Sacred Song." Seasonal songs from many traditions. The chorus includes local performers Lisa Bashert, Lori Fithian, Kathy Moore, Efrain Rosales, Jeanne Mackey, Shu Na Sii Rose, LaRon Williams, Rhonda Williams, and Robin Wilson. Proceeds donated to Ozone House, the local shelter for homeless and runaway youth. 7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Sliding scale donation \$5-\$25 (children under 12, free). 741-8541.

21st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 4 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Anton Nel: King's Keyboard House. This award-winning pianist, a U-M music professor, performs Debussy's *Preludes, Book 2* and Chopin's B Minor Sonata ("Funeral March"). A fund-raiser for Kerrytown Concert House. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

*Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music. James Tapia directs this U-M music-student ensemble in a program of contemporary music. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.

★Galliard Brass Ensemble: EMU Performing Arts & Concert Series. This award-winning local brass quintet led by trumpeter Charles Larkins presents a varied program that includes excerpts from Handel's Water Music Suite, Victor Ewald's Symphony for Brass, two pieces by Samuel Scheidt, Richard Price's arrangements for brass of Christmas carols, and brass arrangements of two Hanukkah pieces. 8 p.m. Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-1221.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. December 5 & 6. This annual performance of Handel's well-loved religious oratorio has been an Ann Arbor tradition since 1879. Thomas Sheets directs the UMS Choral Union and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, include soprano Kathleen Brett, contralto Ellen Rabiner, tenor Gordon Gietz, and bass Dean Peterson. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$18 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764, 2538 or (800) 221-1229 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.

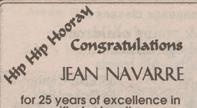
Kol Hakavod: Hillel. This popular local a cappella chorus specializes in Jewish songs from traditional to contemporary. They have performed throughout the U.S. and released two CDs. 8 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. Tickets \$5 (students, \$3) in advance at Hillel. 769-0500.

First Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Peter Baker calls to music by Top Drawer Stringband. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear comfortable clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, all string band musicians invited to bring their instruments (and Ruffwater fake books) to a free jam session (4-6 p.m.). 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$7. 665-7704, 332-9024.

*"Dude Productions": William Gene Patrick Window Gallery. Every Saturday (except December 26). Local performance artists Mike Hunt and Dick Tater appear in various provocative poses at this avant-garde window gallery. Tonight's exhibit/performance is titled "Two Guys Posing as Hot Dogs Being Rotated and Cooked." 8−10 p.m., W. G. Patrick Gallery, 14 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Free. 483−0183.

Mustard's Retreat: First Unitarian Church. Longtime local favorites Michael Hough and David Tamulevich perform a variety of original and traditional songs and ballads about everyday life. Both are accomplished guitarists, and they also play ban-jo, mandolin, flute, autoharp, harmonica, and tin whistle. A benefit for the First Unitarian Church. 8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. \$10 at the door only. 665-0537.

The Nields: The Ark. This very popular folk-rock quintet from Boston is led by the Roches-style vocals of sisters Nerissa and Katryna Nields. They specialize in songs of corrosive social observation, and



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- Mondays-Session III from 1/4/99 to 2/22/99; Session IV from 3/1/99 to 4/19/99. Classes: Chinese Beginner, Japanese Beginner, Polish Beginner: Spanish Beginner.
- Tuesdays-Session III from 1/5/99 to 2/23/99;
 Session IV from 3/2/99 to 4/20/99.
 Classes: French Beginner; German Intermediate;
 Spanish Conversation.
- Wednesdays-Session III from 1/6/99 to 2/24/99;
 Session IV from 3/3/99 to 4/21/99.
 Classes: Spanish Intermediate; French Conversation: Russian Beginner; Spanish Beginner.
- Thursdays—Session III from 1/7/99 to 2/25/99;
 Session IV from 3/4/99 to 4/22/99.

8 week session. 1 1/2 hour classes 4:30-6:00 p.m. One class meeting per week. Class size limited to 12 students Location: Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett Street, Ann Arbor. Cost: \$125 tuition, plus materials

- Mondays-Session III from 1/4/99 to 2/22/99;
 Session IV from 3/1/99 to 4/19/99.
 Classes: Chinese; Polish Beginner; Spanish Beginner (Ages 5-7); Japanese.
- Tuesdays-Session III from 1/5/99 to 2/23/99; Session IV from 3/2/99 to 4/20/99.
- Session IV from 3/2/99 to 4/20/99.
 Classes: French Beginner (Ages 5-7);
 German Beginner (Ages 8-12).

 Wednesdays-Session III from 1/6/99 to 2/24/99;
 Session IV from 3/3/99 to 4/21/99.
 Classes: Russian Beginner; Spanish Beginner (Ages 8-12).

 Thursdays-Session III from 1/6/90 to 2/26/50.
- Thursdays-Session III from 1/7/99 to 2/25/99;
 Session IV from 3/4/99 to 4/22/99.
 Classes: French Beginner (Ages 8-12); German Beginner

German Conversation		(Ages 5-7); Spanish for Bilingual Children.
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EVENTS continued

their music is alternately upbeat and moody, sometimes luminous and sometimes stinging and gritty. They have an acclaimed new CD, Bob on the Ceiling. Opening act is Eddie from Ohio, a highly regarded acoustic quartet from Arlington, Virginia, known for their resonant vocal harmonies, ace musicianship, and upbeat, well-crafted original songs Imagine Crosby, Stills, and Nash in their heyday, backed by Bela Fleck and the Flecktones,' Dirty Linen magazine, and Austin, Texas, radio DJ David Obermann says they evoke "shades of Washington Squares, Uncle Bonsai, and 10,000 Mani--but still unique." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call

"Ghost of the River House": EMU Theater of the Young. See 4 Friday. 2:30 & 8 p.m.

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 3 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday, 3 & 8 p.m.

"Volpone": U-M Theater Department. See 3

"Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. See 3 Thursday. 8

Jeff Shaw: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Mighty Joe Young: Prism Productions. This veteran Louisiana-born bluesman got his start playing lead guitar with Chicago blues legend Howling Wolf in the 50s. After holding similar positions with Jimmy Rogers, Billy Boy Arnold, and Otis Rush, Young formed his own band in 1963, scoring his first hit with "Why Baby?" He performs a highly danceable form of blues, incorporating soulful R&B and urban funk rhythmic strains into the grinding Chicago blues idiom. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 10 p.m.), Amer's First Street Grill, 102 S. First at Huron. Tickets \$8 in advance at SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; \$10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666; for information, call

FILMS

CG. "The Maltese Falcon" (John Huston, 1941). Classic detective drama. Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre, Sydney Greenstreet. Nat. Sci. p.m. "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946).
'Tis the season once again for this classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. Nat. Sci., 9 p.m. FV. Orson Welles Weekend. See Events listing above. Mich., 6 p.m. U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. "Animania." See Events listing above. FREE. MLB 3; 5-11 p.m.

6 SUNDAY

★"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Sunday. All invited to join AATC members for all or part of a 14-mile training run along roads ringing the city. 9 a.m., Great Lakes Bank parking lot, 2400 S. Huron Pkwy. at Platt Rd. Free. For information, call Dan Gamble at 995-5505

*Falun Gong Instruction. Every Sunday. Local practitioners lead an introduction to this Chinese physical and spiritual discipline, which consists of five gentle exercises concluding with meditation. 9 a.m.-noon, Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For information, call Liping Li at 327-1309.

★Zen Meditation: Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. Every Sunday. Meditators from all traditions are welcome to join in meditation to de-velop awareness and concentration. In the morning, two 25-minute meditation periods with a break between, followed by a short talk by Zen Buddhist Temple resident priest Sukha Murray. In the evening, meditation and chanting, followed by a talk and a question period. 9:30–11 a.m. & 5–6:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free; nations accepted. 761-6520.

★"Kame Hill Climb": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Matt Heumann leads a trek up this hill in Park Lyndon. 10 a.m., Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971-6337.

★"My Life As an Artist": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by Ann Arbor Women Painters member Virginia Papania. 10 a.m., Burns Park Se-nior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.

*"The Dollars and Sense of Divorce": Jewish Family Services. This workshop, tailored for women, on the practical, emotional, and legal issues of divorce features talks by local financial planner Jacki Gold, clinical psychologist Sheri Szuch, and attorney Sally Rutzky. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Com-Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. Reservations required by December 1. 971–3280.

*Chinese Meditation: Ann Arbor Chapter of the International Yan Xin Qigong Association. Every Sunday. All invited to discuss and practice this Chinese form of meditation. 10:30 a.m.-noon, 1014 Herbert Dow Bldg., 2300 Hayward, North Campus.

*"The Non-Bicyclist's Christmas Shopping Seminar": Two Wheel Tango. All invited to learn about "the latest coolest things to give your bicycleaddicted partner/friend/child that they will actually like and make them think you're hip and in the know." Toddler play area available. Also, register to win a kid's bike any time this month at the store. 11 a.m.-noon, Two Wheel Tango, 3162 Packard at Platt. Free. 528-3030.

Motorcycle Swap Meet and Custom Bike Show: ABATE of Michigan. Display, sale, and swap of motorcycles of all kinds and related accessories. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$5 (ABATE embers, \$4; children under 16, free). 449-5222

*First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday. A weekly program for single adults interest ed in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, per-sonal growth, and social and physical activities. This "Waiting," an Advent talk by Anna Marie Austin, a Presbyterian minister. Also this month: Salvation Army representatives discuss their service programs (December 13), Dave Krehbiel leads a program of "Christmas Carols and Readings" (December 20), and First Singles member Carol Lee Charles discusses "Christmas Reminiscences: Past and Future" (December 27). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Cafe Marie (1759 Plymouth Rd.) and every Wednesday at p.m. for volleyball at a location to be announced All singles invited. 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 741-8345.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. Every Sunday (except December 27). A wide variety of fine arts and crafts by local artisans. Musicians and other entertainers are usually on hand to add to the festivities. Today's special events to be announced. 11 a.m. 4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. 668-2027.

*Monthly Push Hands Practice: Peaceful Dragon School. Anyone with some experience is invited to practice medium- to low-impact push hands, a form of applied or interactive (nonsparring) t'ai chi. 11 a.m.-noon, 1945 Pauline Blvd., Suite B. Free. 741-0695.

*Open House: Nature's Expressions. Show and sale of fine fossils, minerals, shells, insect specimens, and more at this gallery (formally The Distinctive Touch), normally open by appointment only. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. from Huron River Dr.). Free. 994-3048.

*16th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 4 Friday. Also, today: a Christmas concert (3-4 p.m.) with performances by the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir and the women's vocal ensemble One Accord, a duet by harpist Nicole Staker and pianist Alan Staker, and solo performances by vocalist Ruth Christensen and flutist Leah Christensen. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

*Single Point II: Knox Singles Ministries. Every Sunday. All single adults age 35 & older invited to join Knox Presbyterian pastor Mike Frison and church member Joyce Lutry for a series of discussions on "How to Avoid Deadly Attraction." 11:15 Tappan Middle School, 2251 E. Stadium. Free. 971-KNOX.

★"Flaming Menorah Brunch": Hillel Ahava. All invited to join a pre-Hanukkah party for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, and their friends. Noon, Hillel, 1429 Hill St. Free. 769-0500.

★10th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association. All kids are invited to join a downtown street parade featuring assorted costumed animal characters, city fire engines, AATA and public school buses, and area high school marching bands. The parade is led by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who ride in a reindeer-drawn sleigh. Participating children are encouraged to wear too, and all kids are given kazoos for a kiddie kazoo band. Parents are welcome to bring kids in strollers or accompany those who need escorts, and nursery schools and Scout and Brownie troops can march to-gether with an identifying banner. The parade route runs from the Federal Building down Liberty to

102 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 1998

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Christine Balfa's great-great-great-greatgreat-great-grandfather was one of the original Acadian refugees who fled Canada for Louisiana. Her father, Dewey Balfa, led a legendary Cajun band that played the Newport Folk Festival in the 1960s. Now her own band, Balfa Toujours, dedicates itself expressly to the perpetuation of his spirit, and to the realization of his dictum that traditions are preserved one generation at a time. The pages of the booklet accompanying the new Balfa Toujours CD, La Pointe, are decorated with images of Acadian cattle brands dating back to the eighteenth century. "Every brand here belonged to one of Christine's relatives," the booklet reads. The CD itself was

recorded in the living room of Balfa and her husband, accordionist Dirk Powell, overlooking the Bayou Teche.

It's hard to imagine a music more rooted in a specific place. Some Cajun bands trade on Louisiana's party-time reputation; others dilute traditional sounds with country or rock or rhythm-and-blues. Beausoleil, the best known of contemporary Cajun bands, looks both backward and forward, reconstructing the tradition and pursuing the possibilities it contains. Balfa Toujours fits none of these categories; for this band, tradition is simply a lived way of communicating, a personal presence. Their originals often describe the experiences of relatives and friends, and when they offer a traditional piece, it comes with remarks about the player it was learned from, and even about where that person learned it. The band's sound, in which a fiddle is equal partner to the accordion, harks back several decades-Dewey Balfa used to say that Cajun music with no fiddle is like swimming with no water.

The vocal pieces are all in French, but I'd wager that when Balfa Toujours visits the Ark on Sunday, December 6, just a little bit of high school (or even phrase book) French will take you a long way in understanding them. Listening to their music on CD, I've found that I become engrossed in a deeply felt written explanation of how a song came to be, and that after being thus led so far into the song's essence, I barely need to turn to the English translation. In person, they ought to achieve even more immediacy. Some think that a tradition is a faceless thing, but with Balfa Toujours, tradition is personal, and it makes connections-with an audience, with dead ancestors, with newcomers to the music. I'll be down at the Ark to meet the Cajun tradition face to face.

-James M. Manheim

Fourth Ave. to Washington to Main to the Detroit Edison parking lot at William, where a petting farm is set up. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at the Real Seafood Company. Also, all invited to donate new toys for needy children to the SOS Community Toy Chest at 306 S. Main. Noon (assemble), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

*Santa and Dancer": Dixboro General Store. December 6 & 13. Your chance to pose for a free Photo with Santa and a real live reindeer. Noon-3 p.m., Dixboro General Store, 5206 Plymouth Rd. Free. 663-5558.

Silent Meditation: Essence Point. Every Sunday.
Two unguided 25-minute silent meditation periods with a short break between. All welcome. Noon-1 P.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe. Donations appreciated. 913-9830.

Monthly Meeting: YANKS. All invited to join this group for brunch and socializing. The acronym stands for Young Anglicans: No Kids, and the group consists mostly of couples in their 20s and 30s, but there is no age requirement, and young parents who desire an afternoon of adult company are welcome. Noon, location to be announced. Pay for your own meal. For information or reservations, call Colleen at 930–9006 or St. Clare's Episcopal Church at

"First Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting": Tios Restaurant. Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt.

Noon-4 p.m., Tios Restaurant, 333 E. Huron. Free.

*Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. Every Sunday. All seniors age 55 and older are invited for an afternoon of socializing. Activities include a potluck (1–1:30 p.m.) and bridge and euchre (1:30–3:30 p.m.). Participant ticipants are welcome to bring their own games. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Newcomers welcome. 12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.

"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. Every Sunday. All seniors age 50 & older are invited to join Kiki David, a 94year-old runner (and Herb David's mother), for an hour-long walk in Gallup Park, weather permitting. 1 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For information, call Herb David at 665-8001 (10 a.m.-6 p.m., except Sundays).

★"Paper Gathering": Hollander's. All paper crafters invited to share ideas and projects in an informal setting. 1-4 p.m., Hollander's, Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 741-7531.

Christmas Open House: Milan Area Historical Society/Milan Jaycees. Guided tours of the Hack House, a Victorian house that has been decorated to re-create a 19th-century Christmas. Also, announcement of the winner of the Jaycees annual Littlest Angel Baby Contest. Refreshments. 1–4 p.m., Hack House, 775 County St., Milan. \$1. 439–7522.

23rd Annual "Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. November 29 & December 6. Re-creation of a mid-19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse are available. 1–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2. (families, \$8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.

2nd Annual "Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti." Tour of seven historic homes, all decked out for the holidays inside and out. Includes the recently renovated Ladies' Library on North Huron Street, now a private home. Also, examples of Tudor, Gothic Revival, and Colonial Revival architecture. A variety of special attractions, including Christmas car-ols sung by the Sweet Adelines, homemade Christ-mas cookies to eat, and "Festive Tables," an array of 30 holiday tables set by community members. Proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels and historic preservation in Depot Town. 1–6 p.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Tickets \$13 in advance and on the day of the tour at Remington's By Design and Me 'N' My Sisters in Depot Town, Ypsilanti. 485–2164.

*Rochelle Mouilleseaux-Martinez: Nicola's Books. This local harpist performs holiday tunes and more. Her CD, Serenity: Music for Harp and Flute,



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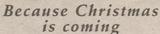
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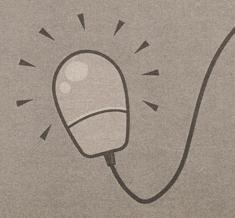
(See page 128, December Observer)

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EVENTS continued

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Michael Cooney: The Ark. Children's concert by this popular folksinger who performs an adult show at the Ark on December 4 (see listing). I p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$6 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Gifts of Christmas Past: A Handmade Tradition": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. See 5 Saturday. 1-5 p.m.

★"Feed the Poets": Del Rio. Open mike poetry readings interspersed with informal readings by poets to be announced. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Del Rio, 122 W. Washington. Free. 761-2530.

"Diamond in the Sky"/"Light Years from Andromeda": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 5 Saturday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Diamond in the Sky"); 3:30 p.m. ("Light Years from Andromeda").

"Make Your Own Tracks": Waterloo Natural History Association. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero shows participants how to make plaster of Paris impressions of animal tracks. 2-3 p.m., Gerald E. Eddy Geology Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take 1-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Geology Center is on the left.) \$2 (families, \$5; WNHA members, free). \$4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit (\$20 per year). 475-3170.

★"Yo-Yo Tricks": Learning Express. Learning Express yo-yo contest winners Christopher and TJ teach yo-yo tricks to kids of all ages. Those who master 6 different tricks are listed on the store's Yo-Yo Star poster. 2-3 p.m., Learning Express, West-gate Shopping Center, 2465 W. Stadium. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 997-0707.

*"Kerry Tales: Many Mice and Mother Goose": Story Time at Kerrytown (Kerrytown Shops/Workbench Furniture). This 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun features local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Workbench, 2nd-floor children's furniture area, 410 N. Fourth Ave., Kerrytown. Free. 769-3115.

★Victorian Christmas Open House: Ypsilanti Historical Museum. This beautiful 1860s Italianate home is decorated in Victorian style for the holidays, with a Christmas tree, display of antique china, and more. Live music and refreshments. 2-5 p.m., Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti.

*Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art. Every Sunday (except December 27). UMMA docents lead an hour-long tour of museum holdings. Today and December 20: *Drawings by Delacroix*. Also this month: Master Drawings from the Worcester Art Museum (December 13). 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.

"Sound Off!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Monthly Demonstration. See 5 Saturday. 2 & 4

Klezmer Concert: The Ethnic Connection. A holi-day concert of freylekhs (Yiddish dance tunes), Yiddish songs, and Balkan dance tunes by this popular local klezmer band. The group includes David Owens (the principal vocalist), Ralph Katz, Nan Nelson, and Carol Palms, and they all play various instruments, including clarinet, violin, accordion, bass, guitar, mandolin, and doumbek. They are joined today by two guest musicians, violinist Bruce Sagan and trombonist Daniel Peisach. 2 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N 4th Ave. \$8 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. For reservations, call 769-2999. For information, call 662-5253.

"Orson Welles Weekend": U-M Film and Video Studies Program/Program in American Culture. See 4 Friday. First session (2 p.m.): Excerpts from Welles's forays into television, including the 1957 welfes's lotays into elevision, including the 152 pilot for The Fountain of Youth, Japanese TV commercials, an episode from Orson Welles's Great Mysteries, and more. Second session (4 p.m.): Chimes at Midnight stars Welles as Falstaff in a story cobbled together from five Shakespearean plays. 2–6 p.m.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society.

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m. "Volpone": U-M Theater Department. See 3

Thursday, 2 p.m.

Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. See 3 Thursday. 2 &

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*38th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: EMU Music Department/Campus Ministries. e for Measure, a local men's chorus, joins the the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Glee Club to present the Christmas story through a program of alternating text and song adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Leonard Riccinto and Ernest Brandon conduct. 2 & 5 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti, 209 Washte-naw, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255, 482–8374.

*Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers. Every Sunday and occasional Mondays. The local chapter of an unorthodox international running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's primary task is to follow a trail, laid out by a club member, that has been designed to trick runners into losing their way. The usual result is to make the fastest (lead) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and soft drinks hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant for refreshments. 3 p.m. (Sundays) & 6:30 p.m. (Mondays), location to be announced. Free. For location and information, visit the group's website (www-personal.umich.edu/~ronmoore/a2h3) or call 332–9314.

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/ Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts from Third World countries and a chance to help pay for farm animals (on hand and available for petting) to go to needy farm families. Also, calendars, cards, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 3-7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.

*"Past, Present, and Future": Clare Spitler Works of Art. Opening reception for this annual "theme" exhibit featuring various artists' works on the title theme. 3–6 p.m., Clare Spitler Works of Art, 2007 Pauline Ct. Free. 662–8914.

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers/Salvation Army Advisory Board. See 5 Saturday. 3

21st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 4 Friday. 4 p.m.

*Interfaith Worship Service: Guild House Cam-Pus Ministry. Every Saturday. The service begins with a Native American smudging, ends with a Sufi blessing, and includes a talk by Guild House minister Diane Christopherson on "Relational Metaphors for God." 4-4:45 p.m., 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662-5189.

*Chamber Music Concert: U-M Residential College. Maria Kardas Barna directs RC students in a Program of chamber duets, trios, quartets, quintets, and ensemble works. 4 p.m., Residential College audio ditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free.

*Andrew Anderson. This veteran local classical Pianist performs a program highlighted by Beethoven's Apassionata (Piano Sonata No. 23 in f inor). Also, former U-M music school composer Ross Lee Finney's vivid Fantasy and short works by Chopin and Liszt. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–7346.

*Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music. Some of the U-M's top-notch music faculty Join for a performance of Glinka's Trio ("Pathetique"). Prokofiev's Quintet, and Brahms's String Sextet. Performers include clarinetists Deborah Chodestiant Food Ormand, bassoonist Richard Chodacki and Fred Ormand, bassoonist Richard Beene, violinist Paul Kantor, violists Hong Mei Xiao and Yizhak Schotten, cellist Anthony Elliott, bassist Stuart Sankey, and pianist Logan Skelton. 4 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

*Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Michael Gould leads this top-notch music-student ensemble in music of John Cage, Pat Metheny, James Campbell, and William Cahn. Also, music from Cuba and Trinidad/Tobago. The Percussion Ensemble has performed to acclaim around the world and has released 3 CDs. The group's concerts are exciting, energetic, and generally a lot of fun. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a "petting zoo," during which visitors can try out a variety of percussion instruments. 4 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus, Fra. 762, 4726 pus. Free. 763-4726.

1st Annual "Path of Lights": Arborcrest Memorial Park, All invited to attend a nondenominational service in remembrance of loved ones. A path light-

ed by luminary candles leads to a tree of remembrance, which is lit at the end of the program. Refreshments. Donations go to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. 4:45 p.m., Arborcrest Memorial Park, 2521 Glazier Way (1/4 mile west of Huron Pkwy.). Minimum \$1 donation appreciated. 761-4572.

*Jazz Mass: Canterbury House. Live jazz, blues, gospel, and Taize chants accompany experimental worship. U-M music professor Stephen Rush and his band Quartex join the Reverend Matthew Lawrence. Free supper for students follows the service. 5 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron St. Free; offering taken, 665-0606.

★U-M Gospel Chorale. This 90-member choir made up of U-M students and faculty performs contemporary and traditional gospel music, including spirituals. The group, founded in 1988, performs frequently in the community and has opened for such artists as The Winans, Yolanda Adams, and Sounds of Blackness. 5 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free.

"Drumwomyn: An Orchestra of Drums." December 6 & 20. All women invited to gather for a drumming jam session or lesson. 6 p.m., location to be announced. Jam session is free; lesson fee, \$10. For information, call Kim at 994–3242.

*Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers. Every Sunday. All invited to learn this tra-ditional form of English ceremonial dance dating back to medieval times. No experience necessary Wear comfortable soft-soled shoes. Members perform in costume on May Day and other occasions throughout the year. 6-8 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For information, call Jill Baker at

"House Blend" Series: Ann Arbor Playwrights. December 6 & 20. All invited to hear a reading of a new play by a local playwright, followed by discussion. Tonight: Ann Forsaith's Favors, a drama about a woman forced to face some long-buried truths when her son is discovered to have a deadly disease. 6–9 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. \$2 suggested donation. (248) 424–9962.

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. Every Sunday. Dancing to late-30s swing and 40s R&B by this veteran local big band led by Urbations saxophonist David Swain. 7-9:30 p.m., Heidelberg Restaurant (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. \$3. 663-7758

*Auditions for "Romeo and Juliet": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. December 6 & 7 (callbacks December 8). All invited to try out for a February production of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). Free. 971-AACT.

*Arianna String Quartet: EMU Music Department. The 1994 grand prize winner at the prestigious Fischoff Chamber Music Competition, the Arianna, now in its 3rd year at EMU as quartet-in-residence, is regarded as one of the country's finest young string quartets. Today's concert is the debut of Arianna's new violinist, John McGrosso. Program: Beethoven's Quartet (Op. 18, No. 2), Bartok's Quartet No. 3, and Debussy's Quartet. 7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

*11th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea. See 4 Friday. The festival concludes tonight with a Festival of Lessons and Carols (7 p.m., St. Mary's Catholic Church)

Balfa Toujours: The Ark, See review, p. 103. Ann Arbor debut of this southwestern Louisiana quartet led by singer-guitarist Christine Balfa, the daughter of the legendary Cajun fiddler Dewey Balfa. Other members are accordionist Dirk Powell, fiddler Kevin Wimmer, and drummer Mike "Chop" Chapman They play traditional Cajun music, a hot, syncopated, sweetly soulful dance music, and their repertoire includes both traditional and original tunes. The band recently released its second Rounder CD, La Pointe. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. \$11 (members, students, & seniors, \$10) at the door only.

Israeli Dancing: Hillel. December 6 & 13. Tom Starks leads 45 minutes of instruction for beginners, followed by open dancing. 7:30-10 p.m., 1429 Hill St. \$2.50. 769-0500.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dancers. December 6, 13, & 20. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including foxtrots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded by hustle (4-5:30 p.m.) and samba (5:30-8 p.m.) lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. \$2. 763-6984.

FV Orson Welles Weekend. See Events listing above. Mich., 2 p.m. MTF. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., 7 &



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Guide to the Ann Arbor Art Fairs

This guide provides comprehensive information about Ann Arbor's three major art fairs. It includes extensive artists' lists, detailed street maps of each fair, as well as a guide to food, information, parking, and shuttle services.





















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jazz



François Houle Clarinet marmalade

The jazz clarinet has had a mercurial history. It was the vehicle for generations of New Orleans virtuosos, singing the high lines in marching bands and dance ensembles and continuing as the privileged instrument of the popular kings of the swing era. With the advent of bop, it was eclipsed by its brass cousin, the saxophone. A few players kept the clarinet tradition going, but in the second half of the century it definitely lost its place in the music

The multiplication of modes of expression during the 1960s, and the advent of what is often called the avant-garde, changed all this once again. Today, the clarinet is enjoying a new lease on life in improvised music. The impetus for this resurgence came from the amazing expansion of tonal possibilities of the instrument developed by classical musicians such as William O. Smith (who also

played with Dave Brubeck) and John Carter. Inspired in part by the new sounds generated by electronic instruments, they discovered novel ways of making sounds on the clarinet, with an infinite palette of tonal possibilities, including the range of higher octaves, multiple sounds, clicks, chirps, and whispers. The klezmer revival has helped as well, providing clarinetists with a fresh source of inspiration as well as opportunities for work.

François Houle has taken full advantage of all of this. Trained at Yale as a classical clarinetist, he discovered jazz while researching historical instruments in Paris. He moved to Vancouver and worked hard to master his new love, even going so far as to take up the soprano saxophone. He managed to imitate very well, but only when he incorporated his classical training, particularly his knowledge of contemporary forms, did he find his voice in improvised music. His soprano playing was nice and ordinary, but his clarinet playing was superb. One can hear the evolution of his musicianship on his recordings, culminating with piano duets with Benoît Delbecq and Marilyn Crispell, and his quintet masterpiece, In the Vernacular: The Music of John Carter, one of my favorite releases of the year.

Houle is both performer and composer. His instrumental mastery is astounding, with a full command of all modern extended techniques. His compositional skills enable him to improvise structured lines without recourse to traditional harmonic forms. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he uses these resources as a means of emotional expression, and his work never sounds cold or studied. For his Ann Arbor debut at Kerrytown Concert House on Thursday, December 10, he has chosen to play alone. Many may find this a daunting prospect, but Houle is one of the few clarinetists with the musical resources to keep one's attention for a solo concert.

-Piotr Michalowski

Alzheimer's Association. Overview of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and of common questions and concerns for caregivers. 6:30-8:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free, but preregistration requested. 741-8200, (800) 337-3827

★Evening Voyages: Ann Arbor District Library. Part of a series of storytelling programs for listene 1st grade through adult. Stories in this popular series are told rather than read, and music is an integral part of each program. Children under age 6 not admitted. Tonight's guest storyteller is Eric Engel. 7-7:45 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

*"Athena: A Monthly Mentoring Group for Women": Soundings. Local career coach Anne Benedict leads women in discussion on building ca reers. 7-9 p.m., Soundings, 4090 Packard Rd. Free, but reservations requested. 973-7723.

Weekly Meeting: Dream Group. Every Monday. All invited to discuss their dreams from a Jungian perspective. Discussion facilitator is local social worker Rebecca Mullen. 7–9:30 p.m., location to be announced. \$5 donation. 662–5925.

*Weekly Meeting: Huron Valley Toastmasters. Every Monday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the U-M Hospital cafeteria. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). 7-9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: \$48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16).

★Weekly Meeting: The Shire of Cynnabar (Society for Creative Anachronism). Every Monday. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Each meeting features a workshop on re-creating a different aspect of me-dieval culture, including heraldry, costuming, embroidery, and other crafts. 7 p.m., 1305 Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1311 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, call Chuck Cohen at 764-4317.

★"Buying a Home Without Losing Your Shirt": The Buyer's Agent. Real estate professionals lead a discussion on first-time home buying, including the search process, negotiation, mortgages, and closings, 7-8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free, but preregistration required. 662-6240.

*Ann Arbor Go Club. December 7, 13, & 21. Players of all ages and ability levels invited to play this ancient board game. Go equipment and basic in struction provided. 7–10 p.m. (December 7 & 21) & l-5 p.m. (December 13), Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 663-1675.

★"Holy Woman, Holy Man: The Charismatic and Social Power": U-M Program on Studies in Religion. U-M religion program head Ralph Williams gives a talk on "The Disappearance of the Holy and Public Time and Space." Last in a fall series of lectures by U-M and visiting scholars. This is a U-M class, but the public is invited. 7:30 p.m., 3124 East Hall, 525 East University. Free. 764-4475.

*Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. Every Monday. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual people. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 973–6084.

*Monthly Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Music and stands provided. Also, the group holds its monthly small ensemble (5-10 players) meeting on December 21. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School choir room, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free to first-time visitors (\$30 annual dues).

*June Spence: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This North Carolina fiction writer, winner of the 1995 Willa Cather Fiction contest, reads from Missing Women and Others, her acclaimed debut collection of stories about the inner lives of misunderstood or marginalized characters, mostly women, struggling to make something large and substantial of their severely circumscribed lives. Following the reading, Spence signs copies of her books. Refreshments. 8 m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

*"Monday Evenings with Stephen McLean": LifeTouch Healing Community. December 7 & 21. A series of talks by this local chiropractor.
Tonight: "Network Chiropractic's Influence on Environmental Illness." Also this month: "Transformation Through Network Chiropractic Care and the 12 Stages of Healing" (December 21). 8 p.m., LifeTouch Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.

7 MONDAY

*Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. Every Monday. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus, a member of the Washtenaw Council for the Arts, to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Gini Robison directs. 10-11:45 a.m., nized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 520 W. Jefferson at Fourth St. Free to firsttime visitors (\$40 per semester membership dues). 677-0678, 663-5907.

*Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. Every Monday. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 and older. Every meeting includes a special program, speaker, word game, or craft activity. The weekly program also includes Bible study and chair exercise. exercises. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch and socializing. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free (\$1 donation for lunch) lunch). 668-8353.

*Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Every Monday. Activities begin with "Fitness Fun" (11 a.m.—noon) led by Maria Farquhar. At noon, a homemade luncheon buffet (\$4, \$3 with reservations). Also, a series of classes on "Contemporary Russian Culture" (1-3 p.m. except December 28) r 28) presented by Temple Beth El (Flint) cantor Aleksandr Chernyak and a meeting of the creative writing group Words for Ourselves, Our Children, Our Community (3 p.m.). Bridge, chess, and Trivial p. ial Pursuit games also begin at 3 p.m. All invited. 11 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (2008) (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free.

*16th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 4 Frid. 4 Friday. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Weekly Luncheon Series: M Club of Ann Arbor. Every Monday. A weekly lunchtime talk by U-M basketball coach Brian Ellerbe, along with other speakers to be announced (usually another U-M coach and a student athlete). 11:30 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Lunch cost: \$6.75 (seniors, \$6.25). For more information, call Steve Semple at 973-9447

*"Chat with Dr. Ed": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. December 7 & 21. All seniors age 50 & older invited to join retired physician Edmund Whale for informal conversation and to ask general medical questions. Noon-1 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

*Bible Study Group: Guild House. December 7 & 21. All women invited to study the Bible with Guild House minister Diane Christopherson. The group is currently studying the Book of Acts and the sociopolitical and cultural contexts of the formation of the Christian church. Noon-1 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662-5189.

★"The Future of Memory": U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning/Arts of Citizenship Program. Lecture by Polish-born architect Daniel Libeskind, a groundbreaking, iconoclastic designer who has also been called "one of the most paranoid architects of our time." His complex work reflects his concern with human history, particularly the dark legacy of the Second World War. For many years, Libeskind worked as a theorist and teacher only, and his designs were carried out only on paper. That changed in 1989, when he founded his own firm and began building structures, mostly cultural monuments or museums. He is best known for the recently completed Jewish Museum in Berlin, a brooding, troubling creation that looks from the outside like a shattered wall. Currently a U.S. resident, Libeskind gave the architecture college's Raoul Wallenberg lecture in 1995. *Note:* Libeskind takes part in a panel discussion tomorrow on "Museum + Memory" (see 8 Tuesday). 6 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-1300.

*"The ABC's of Alzheimer's: An Orientation":



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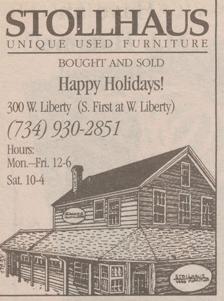
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EVENTS continued

*EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department. Whitney Prince and Mike Hall direct these two music-student ensembles in a program to be announced. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free.

*Composers Forum: U-M School of Music, U-M music students perform original works. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free.

*University Choir: U-M School of Music, Sandra Snow directs this U-M music-student chorus in U-M music professor Theodore Morrison's Winter Madrigals and works by Argento, Byrd, and Willan. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★"The 10 Keys to Making Your Intimate Relationships Work": Counseling Resources of Ann Arbor. Talk by local social work therapist Bob Eg Also this month, Egri discusses "Neurofeedback and the Treatment of ADD, Depression, Anxiety, and Bipolar Disorder" (December 8) and "Effec tively Dealing with and Recovering from the Divorce Process" (December 9). 8:15–9:15 p.m., loation to be announced. Free. Reservations requested. 665-6924.

★Writers Series: Guild House. Readings by two Detroit poets, Broadside Poets Theater director Willie Williams and New Orleans native Ella Norris Singer. Followed by open mike readings and discussion. 8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.

MTF. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

8 TUESDAY

*Morning Coffee: Coterie-Newcomers Club of Ann Arbor. Informal; children welcome. Coterie is open to all women who have moved or returned to the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. 10 a.m.-noon, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw. Free.

"Introduction to Computers": Ann Arbor District Library. December 8 & 9. A hands-on introduction to computers, with an emphasis on such basic skills as using a mouse, opening and closing an application, formatting, saving to a disk, printing, and more. Open to all AADL cardholders. 10 a.m. (December 8) & 7 p.m. (December 9), Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.

★"Ann Arbor's First Lady: Events in the Life of Ann I. Allen": Ann Arbor District Library "Booked for Lunch." Local historian Russell Bidlack, a U-M School of Library Science dean emeritus, discusses his new book. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 9. 12:10-1 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2342.

★Kai Kim and Ann Savageau: U-M Institute for the Humanities. These two local artists discuss their current exhibits, both of which explore religious themes. Also, an opening reception is held today 4:30-6 p.m. Noon, Institute for the Humanities, 1524 Rackham, Free. 936-3518.

"Beginners Guide to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. December 8 & 16. A hands-on introduction to web basics, including how to use browsing software and other Internet features.

Open to all AADL cardholders. *Note:* Free versions of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, are offered at the Northeast (December 1, 7 p.m.) and Loving (December 2, 3 p.m., & December 9, 7 p.m.) branches. 3 p.m. (December 8) & 7 p.m. (December 16), Ann Arbor Dis trict Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required.

*Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. December 8 & 12. Guided tours of the city's new recy cling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include "Santa's Got a Brand New Bag." Participants make a rack from recycled wood scraps for drying reusable zip-lock and produce baggies after you've washed them. Also, information about other easy, imaginative reuse craft projects. 3-5 p.m. (December 8) & 10 a.m.-noon (December 12), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free.

*"Names and Stories: Emilia Dilke and Victorian Culture": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party. U-M history professor Kali Israel is on hand to sign copies of her recently published study of the Victorian English feminist and longtime presi dent of the Women's Trade Union League. Refreshments. 4-6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

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★"Museum + Memory": U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning/Arts of Citizenship Program. U-M president Lee Bollinger moderates discussion with architect Daniel Libeskind (see Monday), University of Wisconsin religion professor Edward Linenthal, U-M architecture and German studies professor Edward Dimendberg, and U-M Museum of Art director James Steward. 4 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 615-0609.

★Plastic Surgery Seminar: Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Surgeons from this Ann Arbor center discuss plastic surgery "from head to toe." Also, discussion on nonsurgical body contouring, spider vein treatments, skin care maintenance, and permanent makeup. 5:30 p.m., Saline Hospital Blue Room, Saline. Free. 712-2323.

Second Tuesday Wine Tasting: Mediterrano. This relaxed wine tasting features wines from around the world with finger foods and tasting tips. 6 p.m., Mediterrano restaurant, 2900 S. State St. at Eisenhower (in the Concord Center). \$15.95. Reserva-tions required. 332–9700.

★"Origami Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library. A local origami expert presents a family-oriented workshop introducing the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Kids under 5 must be accompanied by an adult to assist them. Supplies provided 7-8 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required, 327-8301.

*Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall-See 1 Tuesday. Tonight: the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic. 7 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. December 8 & 11-13 (different opponents). This Ann Arbor-based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Jeff Jackson. The program fields two teamsthe Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team-that plays full schedules from October through March against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21) and against comparable European national teams. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Cleveland of the North American Hockey League. 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$6 (students & children, \$3). 327-9254.

*High School Introductory Evening: Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor. A chance to learn about the curriculum, meet the staff, and tour the facility of the new Rudolf Steiner High School. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner High School in the Genesis Bldg. (St. Clare's Episcopal Church) Temple Beth Emeth), 2309 Packard Rd. Free.

*Groupe de Français. All fluent French speakers invited to enjoy conversation. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free. 996-1848.

*Monthly Meeting: WAUG. This month's meeting is a "Christmas Party with Computer Games," including "You Don't Know Jack." WAUG is a multiplatform computer user group. "Christmas Party with Computer 30-9:30 p.m., Web Chateau Internet Cafe, South University at Forest. Free. 971-8576.

MTF Silent Film Series. "Grass" (Merian Cooper. Ernest Schoedsack, Marguerite Harrison, 1925)-Landmark ethnographic documentary about a tribe of Iranian nomads on their hazardous annual journey to bring their flocks to pasture. Mich., 4:10 p.m. FV-"Out of Africa" (Sydney Pollack, 1985). Drama based on Isak Dinesen's autobiography. Meryl Streep, Robert Redford. Screenwriter Kurt Luedtke is on hand to take questions after the film. FREE Mich., 7 p.m

9 WEDNESDAY

*"Managing Stress over the Holidays": U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic. U-M clinical psychologist Steven Schwartz offers tips on coping with stressand local yoga expert Angie Eder offers a yoga demonstration. Refreshments. Open to anyone age 50 & older. 1–3 p.m., U-M Kellogg Eye Center Auditorium, 1000 Wall St. Free. 764–2556.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department See 2 Wednesday. 3:30-5:15 p.m.

"New Voices Rising": Washtenaw Community College. WCC students, staff, and guests offer dance, theater, and dramatic readings. Refreshments.

⁴ p.m., Washtenaw Community College Theater, Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973-3300.

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*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Magic Club. All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. 7 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. For information, call Harry Colestock at 663-5257

*George Cantor: Nicola's Books. This Detroit News sports writer talks about Back on Top, his chronicle of U-M's 1997 NCAA football national championship. 7 p.m., Nicola's Books (Little Professor), Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

Monthly Meeting: Michigan Chapter of Wild Ones. Wild Ones member Trish Beckford discusses
"The Ethnobotanical Trail at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens." Also, all invited to bring slides of native plants or gardens to share with this local chapter of a national organization that promotes landscaping using native plant species. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass and your own plates, silverware, and cups). 7:30 p.m., Huron High School, room 2100 (west entrance, under the arch). Free. 769-6981.

*Monthly Meeting: Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club. All invited to discuss ham radio activities and issues. Tonight's topic to be announced. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett, Free to visitors (\$20 annual dues). 665-6616.

*"Joyful Jewish Music": Borders Books and Music. A family program of Hanukkah tunes and more by San Slomovits (see 10 Thursday listing), one half of the popular local acoustic duo Gemini. He recently released a solo CD, Music of My Family, Music of My People. 7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.

*Musical Theater Program: U-M School of Music. More than 80 U-M musical theater majors and faculty members perform excerpts from Broadway shows and other musical theater works. 7:30 p.m U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free.

Scandinavian Folk Dancing: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couple dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, Boda polska, and Telespringar. All dances taught by Judy Barlas and Bruce Sagan, who also Provide some live music. No partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. Occasio al live music on traditional instruments. All invited. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$4. 327-3636.

*Flute Choir: EMU Music Department. Julie Stone directs this EMU music student ensemble in a Program that ranges from Baroque to contemporary works. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

*Symphony Band and Concert Band: U-M School of Music. Rob Reynolds and Kevin Sedatole lead these two U-M music-student ensembles. Program to be announced. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium.

*Kindergarten Open House: Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. All parents invited to meet HDS staff and learn about its full-day kindergarten program, 8-9 p.m., Hebrew Day School, 2937 Birch Hollow Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-4633.

"A Season in New South Wales": Shaman Drum Bookshop. EMU English professor George Perkins reads from his portrait of the landscape, culture, and people of Australia. Following the reading. Perkins signs copies of his books. Refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

"Hurricane Mitch Poetry Benefit": Great Lakes Literary Alliance. Readings, in Spanish and English, of classic, contemporary, and original Latin American poems. Readers include Diane Pinkley, winner of the 2nd Annual Allen Ginsberg Memorial Poetry contest in October, and others to be announced. Also, Latin American music. Proceeds to benefit victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 suggested donation at the door. 769-2999.

The Bobs: The Ark. This self-styled "nu Wave" a Cappella quartet from San Francisco performs in the same tradition as Uncle Bonsai and Ann Arbor's own Chenille Sisters. Their lyrics—witty, often whimsical vignettes of ordinary life—have been described as the urban equivalent of Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon tales, and their music inventively mixes a doo-wop base with elements of jazz, funk, classical doo-wop base with various classical, and assorted exotica, along with various

abstract sound effects. They also specialize in off-the-wall covers of popular songs. This is their first local appearance in 7 years. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning 2 weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

MTF. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). See I Tuesday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m. U-M Michigan League. "When Harry Met Sally" (Rob Reiner, 1989). Video showing of this romantic comedy starring Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal. FREE. League Underground, 911 North University, 8 p.m.

10 THURSDAY

"NetWorks": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. A popular 90-minute monthly networking program that provides local businesspeople a chance to meet one another and learn about one another's businesses. 7:45-9 a.m., Detroit Edison Center mity Room, 425 S. Main. \$10 (members, \$5).

5th Annual Holiday Art Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by more than 30 area artisans, including whimsical and classic jewelry, chenille blankets and scarves, boiled wool garments and accessories, primitive folk art, stationery and paper goods, art dolls, Santas, snow people, angels, dried flowers, and more. Proceeds benefit college scholarships for women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Home for the Holidays" tour today (see below). 9 a.m.-4 p.m.. Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. \$5 admission (home tour ticket includes admission to this

*"Preschool Toy Test and Coffee Klatch": Learning Express. Local child development specialist Dody Viola discusses toys as learning aids with moms while their kids try out some Learning Express toys. 10 a.m., Learning Express, Westgate Shopping Center, 2465 W. Stadium. Free. Space limited; preregistration required by December 8. 997-0707.

"Home for the Holidays": Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of four area homes spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds fund scholarships for U-M women. Ticket includes admission to the Holiday Art Market (see above). 10 a.m.-8 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$15 in advance at Dough Boys, Heslop's, Nicola's Books (Little Professor), Anderson Paint & Wallpaper, Christine's Gift Shoppe (Dexter), and Changes of Chelsea. For information, call Susan Betzig at 665-1343 or Debbie Schwartz at

*"The Future of Classical Music": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Lecture by area organist David Wagner, a former radio host on the nowdefunct WQRS classical radio station in Detroit. 10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free, 665-5346.

"Healthy Holiday Hors d'Oeuvres": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Cooking demonstration, with taste samples, by the M-Fit culinary team. Open to all seniors age 50 & older. 11 a.m.-noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Space limited; reservations required. \$5. 998-9353.

*"The War Against Parents": U-M Center for the Education of Women/Family Care Resources Program. Award-winning authors Cornel West, a Harvard philosophy professor, and Sylvia Ann Hewlett, a well-known economist, discuss their new book, an examination of what the authors describe as "the virtual abandonment of parents by business, politics, and the culture." It calls for a reaffirmation of the importance and dignity of the parental role. West and Hewlett sign copies of the book following the lecture. 4-6 p.m., Power Center. Free.

*Monthly Meeting: Huron Land Use Alliance. All invited to discuss ways to promote preservation of open space and the development of livable communities in Washtenaw County. 7-9 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 769-5123.

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. All invited to this annual holiday potluck dinner. Participants are asked to bring their own plates, table service, beverage, and a type of dish (to serve 6-8 people) determined by the first letter of their last name: dessert (A-D), vegetable (E-K), potato dish (L-Q), salad, fruit, or appetizer (R-S), or bread or rolls with butter or margarine (T-Z). Also, auction of donated bird items. Bring your bird. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. (313)



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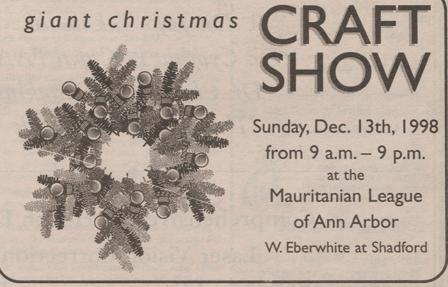
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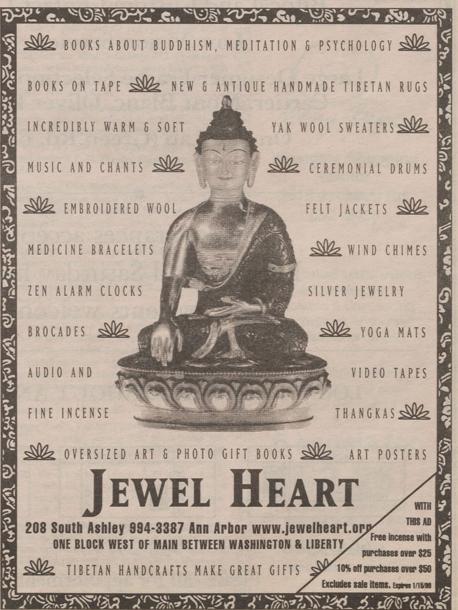
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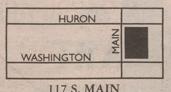
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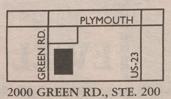
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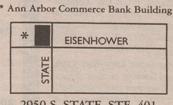
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"Beer Tasting: Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company. A chance to sample and learn about 18-24 different spice beers and other winter season al beers. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a light appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

*"From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler": U-M Theater Department. December 10-12. U-M theater major Lauren Miller directs her adaptation of E. L. Konigsburg's Newbery Award-winning young adult novel about a bored teen who runs away with her younger brother to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Stars Jackson actress Mary Lou Blanchard and Young People's Theater veterans Jenny Horne and David Hamstra. 7 p.m., Frieze Bldg. Arena stage, 105 S. State. Free.

*San Slomovits: Nicola's Books. This local singer and multi-instrumentalist, half of the duo Gemini performs selections from his new CD Music of My family, Music of My People, a collection of songs he learned from his father, a Hungarian cantor, and other Old World Yiddish and Hebrew songs, as well as original songs on Jewish themes. 7 p.m., Nicola's Books (Little Professor), Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

*Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 1 Tuesday. Tonight: the vocal-guitar duo Counterpoint. 7 p.m.

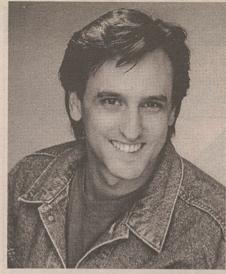
*Monthly Meeting: Experimental Aircraft Association. Program to be announced. All who share an interest in aircraft and aviation techniques invited. , Ann Arbor Airport Terminal Bldg., 801 Airport Dr. (off S. State just south of 1-94). Free. For information, call George Hunt at 475-1553.

*"Songwriters Open Mike": Oz's Music. All Songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. The performances are videotaped and edited for a weekly ow on cable channel 9, Fridays, 8:30-9:30 p.m 7:30_9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662-8283.

*Barnhill Band: EMU Music Department. This 75-piece EMU town-gown ensemble, directed by Jer-ry Robbins, is joined by the **Ypsilanti Community** Choir, directed by Denise Scramstad, for a program of seasonal and holiday choral and instrumental music. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

Francois Houle: Kerrytown Concert House "Jazz at the Edge" Series, See review, p. 107. This brilliant French Canadian jazz clarinetist is known for experimental improvisation that employs a variety of ues including circular breathing and microlones. His wide-ranging sonic explorations have led Jazz critic Art Lange to observe that "Houle's music styles." 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 & \$15 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested, 769-2999.

Billy Bragg & the Blokes: Prism Productions. An Immensely gifted, gruff-voiced British troubadour, Bragg returns to town for the first time in 7 years for a show that focuses primarily on the 40 or so vigorous, sinewy folk-rock songs he composed from re-cently rediscovered lyrics by country-folk legend Woody Guthrie. Fifteen of these Guthrie-Bragg compositions—on topics that range from from political witch-hunts ("Eisler On The Go") to lusted-after starlets ("Ingrid Bergman")—are on Mermaid Avenue, the acclaimed CD Bragg made with the alt-country band Wilco. "Mermaid Avenue [is] one of the year's finest albums," says critic David Cantwill, a distinction it pulls off by simultaneously honoring Guthrie and blasting away any folksy expectations we might have of his music. The results are nearly flawless, ranging from yearning laments and playful children's rockers to horny ballads and brave protest songs that are not merely political but profoundly moral." Opening act is Corey Harris, a highly regarded young African-American acoustic blues Singer-guitarist known for his strikingly expressive voice and his commanding reinterpretations of traditional country blues by the likes of Charlie Patton, Robert Johnson, Mississippi Fred McDowell, and Memphis Minnie. His latest Alligator CD, Fish Ain't Bitin', also features several impressive originals in the traditional style. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets 522 50 in advance at the Michigan Union kets \$22.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning 2 weeks before the



Local radio personality Chris Zito brings his fresh, topical humor to the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, Dec.

show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. December 10-13 & 17-20. Jan Koengeter directs this popular adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale, written in 1983 by the late local author Tom Simonds, with music by Ann Arbor Civic Chorus director Rebecca Vlisides. A young girl courageously sets out to free her friend, who has been kidnapped by the beautiful but sinister Snow Queen. In the course of her journey, the heroine learns much about the true nature of friendship. The show has been produced around the world, including an off-Broadway run. Cast to be announced. 8 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). \$18 (students & seniors, \$16) in advance or at the door, 971-AACT.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. December 10-12. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. The pieces in this year's concert explore ideas, images, and attitudes inspired by the students' studies of surrealism. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only 763-5460.

"A Tuna Christmas": P.T.D. Productions. December 10-13 & 17-19. Dennis Platte directs this comedy by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard, the second in their Greater Tuna play trilogy, about Tuna, Texas ("the third smallest town in Texas"), a place where the Lions Club is considered too liberal. Two actors portray all 24 of the town's quirky characters in a fast-paced satire of holiday happenings, including a disaster-prone production of A Christmas Carol, and a yard-decorating contest that is being sabotaged by a mysterious Christmas phantom. Actors are Brian Burchette and Eric Maurer. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 79 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$9) in advance and at the door. 483-7345.

"Cassandra": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M opera theater student David Gordon directs RC students in this work by Peter Campbell, an RC alum who is currently a Columbia University grad student. Campbell's master's thesis, Cassandra is a dramatic collage exploring the connections between classical Greek tragedy and the Bosnian war by interweaving the testimony of Bosnian war crimes survivors with material from Euripides' The Trojan Women and Agamemnon, 20th-century dramatic works by Brecht and Heiner Mueller, and Christa Wolf's novel Cassandra. The program opens with Visions of War, an adaptation by Kate Mendeloff's RC students of the choral material in Irish poet Brendan Kennelly's translation of Euripides' The Trojan Women. 8 p.m., U-M Residential ditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

"Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. See 3 Thursday. 8

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Jim McLean: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 10-12. Clever observational humor about a

variety of topical matters by this popular young Detroit comic hailed by Detroit Monthly as a "sitcom ready to happen." Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996-9080.

EMU Communication Dept. "Citizen Kane" (Orson Welles, 1941). Film classic about the rise and fall of a newspaper tycoon. FREE. Mich., 9 a.m. & 4 p.m. MTF. "Life Is Beautiful" (Roberto Benigni, 1997). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

11 FRIDAY

*"Coffee with the Board": Ann Arbor Public Schools. All parents and other interested folks invited to discuss school issues with local school board trustees. 7-9 a.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. 994-2236.

*Women's Chamber Chorus. Gini Robison directs this independent local women's chorus in a program that includes both Christmas carols from other countries and standard carols arranged by John Rutter. Noon, Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. Free. 677-0678.

★U-M Wrestling vs. MSU. 1 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.

*The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center. All invited to listen to readings and discuss Yiddish literature selections to be announced. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. 1:30-3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990

*"Top 5 Holiday Hors d'Oeuvres": Whole Foods Market. Whole Foods demo coordinator Andrea offers taste samples, with recipes, of holiday appetizers. 3-7 p.m., Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium. Free. 971-3366.

"Magic: The Gathering Tournament": The Underworld. All invited to compete in a tournament of this collectible card game using a sealed deck. Prizes. Space limited; sign-up begins at 5:45 p.m. 6 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. \$15 includes a deck of cards, 998-0547.

★"Value Line Investment Service": Ann Arbor District Library. Library staffers show how to use Value Line databases for stock and mutual fund information. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Lov-ing Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt). Free. Preregistration required. 994-2342.

*"Behind the Mask": Gallery 212. Opening reception for this juried all-media group exhibit, which runs through January 3. 7-11 p.m., Gallery 212, 212 S. Main. Free. 665-8224.

*Will Danforth: Borders Books and Music. Instore performance by this local folksinger. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

*"From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler": U-M Theater Department. See 10 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 8 Tuesday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Sault Ste. Marie of the North American Hockey League. 7:30 p.m.

*"Cookie Bake at the Farm": Older Lesbians Organizing. All invited to make holiday cookies at a member's country home. Newcomers welcome. Also, OLO is organizing a "Holiday at the Farm" party on January 2. 7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 428-8824.

*Randall Shea: Amigos de Guatemala. This American educator gives a slide-illustrated talk about U.S.-Guatemalan relations and his work in the Guatemalan village of Santa Maria Tzeja, where he has headed the middle school since 1994, when residents returned from Mexican refugee camps to rebuild their lives after a massacre destroyed their village. 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's Student Chapel, 331 Thompson. Free. 662-9186.

"Peter Pan": Young Actors Guild. December 11-13. This award-winning local youth theater presents its original (nonmusical) adaptation of J. M. Barrie's beloved children's classic about the boy from Never-Never Land. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets \$8 (children under 12, \$6) in advance or at the door. 930-1614.

Empatheater. This local theater group directed by psychologist Sara Schreiber invites a bers to write down their concerns and life situations. which the actors then use as a basis for improvisation. This month's topic is "The Unexpected Gift." Schreiber describes the process as "a combination of psychodrama, improvisational theater, and drama therapy." 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415





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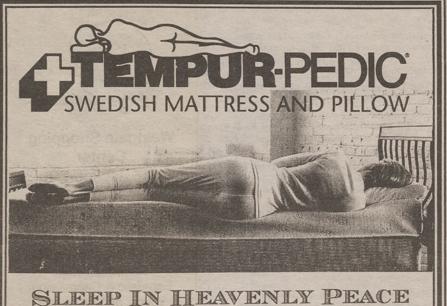
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*Laura Kasischke: Shaman Drum Bookshop
This Washtenaw Community College creative writing teacher, a U-M grad who lives in Chelsea, read
from White Bird in a Blizzard, her recently published novel about a young woman's effort to solve
the mystery of her mother's sudden disappearance
Kasischke has also published two award-winning
collections of gorgeous, vibrant poems exploring the
darker side of life, and a widely acclaimed first nov
el, Suspicious River, that explores sexual violence
and our culture's fascination with it. Following the
reading, Kasischke signs copies of her books. Re
freshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S
State. Free. 662–7407.

★EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department. Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. 8 p.m. Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free 487-2255.

Susan Werner: The Ark. A talented young singer songwriter known for a jazz-inspired, classically trained vocal style she describes as "pop illiterate." Werner writes incisive, vividly imagined songs in variety of moods. A big hit at the 1997 Ann Arbof Folk Festival, Werner has a new CD. Time Betweet Trains, that has been described as "an album for travelers between allegiances, romantic and otherwise." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning 2 weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Rockin' For the Hungry": WIQB/Prism Productions. This rock 'n' roll concert to benefit Food Gatherers, the local food rescue and food bank program, is headlined by Candlebox, a big-noise post grunge hard-rock quartet from Seattle whose 1993 debut CD sold 4 million copies. The band recently released its 3rd CD, Happy Pills. Opening act is The Hunger. Note: Food Gatherers sponsors a food drive with live broadcast by KOOL 107 FM Busch's, December 3–5. All invited to bring cannel goods and other nonperishable foods to tonight's show to donate to Food Gatherers. 8 p.m., Michigat Theater. Tickets \$21.03 in advance at SKR Pop Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors": St. Francis of Assisi Church. December 11 & 12. U-M cello professor Anthony Elliott directs soloists, members of the St. Francis Choir, and a chamber orchestra in this staging of Gian Carlo Menotti's beloved one-actopera, the story of an impoverished boy and his mother who are visited one night by the Three Magon their way to see the Christ Child. 13-year-old Diana Herstein, a St. Francis Middle School 8th-grader, sings the role of Amahl. Proceeds benefit the establishment of a fund for sacred music performance at the church. 8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church. 2251 E. Stadium. Tickets \$10 (adults), \$5 (children), \$25 (families) in advance by calling Janelle O'Malley at the church, 769–2250.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater See 10 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"A Tuna Christmas": P.T.D. Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company
See 2 Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Im McLean, Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, See

Jim McLean: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, Set 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★Bishr Hijazi: Espresso Royale Caffe. See review right. This Jordanian-born Ann Arborite performs traditional Arabic music on the oud and flamenco of the guitar, accompanied by Glenn Bering on percussion. 9–11 p.m., Espresso Royale, 214 S. Main-Free. 668–1838.

Michael Hill's Blues Mob: Prism Productions Acclaimed New York City blues band led by Hill. 4 young singer-guitarist from the South Bronx who's known for his explosive, Hendrix-inspired guital playing, his sweetly soulful vocals, and his impassioned, often humorous original songs. The band's acclaimed new Alligator CD, New York State of Blues, proviked Blues Revue to dub Hill "the blues man piloting the music into the next century." 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 10 p.m.), Amer's First Streef Grill, 102 S. First at Huron. Tickets \$8 in advance of SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the doof. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 213–6000.

ethnic music

Bishr Hijazi Flamenco with an Arabic soul

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For quite a while now, Ann Arbor's live music scene has been in need of a performer inspired by the fusion ferment that has lately bubbled through the world of flamenco guitar in Spain. Likewise, despite all the taped mu-sic we hear in downtown's Middle Eastern restaurants, we've lacked a representative of the traditional instrumental musics of the Arab world. Now we have both-but I didn't expect that the same player would fill both

Bishr Hijazi is a Syrian-trained surgeon of Jordanian nationality who came to southeast Michigan to pursue advanced medical studies. At least, "that's what I'm supposed to be doing," he says. Recently his varied musical activities seem to have gotten the better of him. He grew up with rock music and played the guitar, but after hearing Spanish guitar music in a television commercial at age four, he soon turned to the Western classical guitar tradition and its strong Spanish component. From there it was a short step to flamenco, the virtuoso guitar music that came out of Spain's gypsy community and now sees its leading practitioners entering into partnerships with musicians from many countries. In medical school in Damascus, Hijazi took up Arabic instruments: the oud, a bent-necked lute; and the buzuk, a rarely played Middle Eastern instrument that adds frets to the Greek bouzouki to produce the quarter tones essential to Arabic improvisation. To study with a Lebanese Kurdish master of the buzuk, he traveled illegally from Syria to Lebanon, bribing his way through militia checkpoints.

A committed improviser who resisted the strict memorization regimes associated with the classical systems of Arabic music, Hijazi began ruminating on the scales and modes he had encountered—"finding the Arabic thing in flamenco," he says. He progressed rapidly and was soon giving concerts at cultural centers and similar places around the Middle East. Not long ago he performed for Jordan's American-born Queen Noor.



At Espresso Royale, on Friday, December 11, you can hear the musical outcome of this remarkable saga. Hijazi is joined by percussionist Glenn Bering, a multitalented musi-cian who gets much of the credit for the increasing presence of world music downtown these days. The two met at flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucia's concert at Hill Auditorium last spring, when each was waiting backstage to ask a member of de Lucia's ensemble a question. On Friday, December 18, Hijazi and Bering join forces with flamenco flutist Ginka Ortega, another player inspired by de

Hijazi is a formidable oud player, producing low, expressive countermelodies against rapid scale work in toccatalike solo improvisations. These precede more rhythmically regular sections in which Bering joins, and the two musicians play off against one another. When he turns to the guitar, Hijazi brings a contemplative quality to flamenco that indeed seems to bring out a kinship with the Arabic pieces. The mixture is unique and personal: 'flamenco with an Arabic soul," Hijazi says. It's quite a find, especially on a Friday night in a downtown Ann Arbor cafe.

-James M. Manheim

CJS. "Fireworks" (Takeshi Kitano, 1997). Winner of the Golden Lion award at Cannes, this is an intense action film about a good cop with a violent streak who leaves the police force and takes his ter-minally ill wife to the mountains. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. Lorch, 7 p.m.

12 SATURDAY

Cookie Walk V": First United Methodist Church. Stroll through a homemade cookie bazaar and make your own selections or purchase prepackaged assortments. Proceeds benefit local and international charities. 9 a.m.—noon, First United Methodist Church 100.8. Strong Proceedings on 668–6829. Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. 668-6829.

*"Learning Styles and Language Development": Ann Arbor Public School Achievement Initiative. Educators Nora Martin and Julie Washington lead a workshop aimed at helping parents communicate better with their children's schools. Second in a series of 3 monthly presentations. Child care and meals provided. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Washtenaw Inter-mediate School District, 1819 S. Wagner Rd. Free; Preregistration requested. 662-3128, 994-2623.

Monthly Show: Huron Gun Collectors. December 12 & 13. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Saturday), 9 a.m.-noon (Sunday), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$3 (members, \$1). (810) 227-1637.

*Work Day: Nichols Arboretum. All invited to Join this monthly outing to combat invasive shrubs in an ongoing effort to restore savannalike conditions around the Arb's Dow Field prairie. Concludes

with a discussion of prairie ecosystems and restoration techniques. Bring clippers and work gloves. Held rain or shine. 9 a.m.-noon, meet on the north side of Dow Field, between Edison Rd. and the railroad tracks. Free. 763-3466.

*"Homeopathic First Aid": Whole Foods Market. Talk by Novi homeopathic doctor Kenneth Pittaway. 10 a.m., Tappan Middle School, room 205, 2251 E. Stadium. Free, but reservations requested. 971-3366.

Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. December 12 & 13. Handwovens, basketry, beadwork, handmade paper, felting, hangings, yarns and quilts. Proceeds from ornament sales to benefit Safe House. 10 a,m.-4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 429-9205.

"The Card Show": Ann Arbor Community Center/Youth Services. Some 20-30 card dealers from throughout Michigan and out of state offer a vast array of sports and other collector cards. Selected cards are auctioned off at the end of the day. Door prizes include a \$25 "shopping spree" good at any of the dealer tables. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Admission \$1.

Annual Gift-Making Workshop: The Scrap Box. Children ages 5 and up are invited to make and wrap five gifts using scrap materials from The Scrap Box's incredible stock of "fun junk." 10 a.m.-noon & 1-3 p.m., The Scrap Box, 581 State Circle. \$10 per child. Reservations required. 994-0012.

★"The Field of Spirit." Local spiritual channeler, healer, and counselor Sandra Shears introduces the concepts of direct experience, active meditation, energy healing, lightbody activation, spiritual sexuality, multidimensionality, and other topics. 10 a.m., location to be announced. Free; donations accepted. 484-4840

*Kami: GoodArts (Aurora Borealis Productions). This Ann Arbor folkloric storyteller recounts tions). This Ann Arbor folkloric storyteller recounts traditional English and Celtic folk tales and her own improvisatory stories inspired by randomly selected cards. With musical selections by Canton folk-rock singer-songwriter John Finan, who also performs his own show immediately following (12:30–2 p.m.). Refreshments for sale. 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Pierce's Pastries Plus, 103 W. Middle St., Chelsea. Free, 327–2041

"Whad'Ya Know?": Michigan Radio. Live broadcast of this offbeat weekly public-radio show hosted by Michael Feldman of Madison, Wisconsin. As alby Michael Feldman of Madison, Wisconsin. As always, the program includes jazz by pianist John Thulin and bassist Jeff Eckels, special guests to be announced, and Feldman's weekly monologue on "All the News That Isn't." Audience members have the chance to participate in a quirky quiz that covers odd trivia on a wide variety of topics (including "Things You Should Have Learned in School Had You Been Paying Attention") and when the show's title is announced, they get to shout in unison, "Not Much... You?" Followed by brunch (\$75 includes priority seating during the broadcast) with the cast and crew. 10:30 a.m. (doors open at 10 a.m.), Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$15-\$32 (students, \$10-\$27) in advance by calling 764-9210. advance by calling 764-9210.

*Women's Self-Defense Class: Keith Hafner's Karate. A 45-minute introductory session for women and girls ages 7 and up. 11 a.m., Keith Hafner's Karate, 214 S. Main. Free, but preregistration requested by December 11. 994-0333.

★Kreft Center for the Arts Tour: New Art League Second Saturday. A tour of Concordia College's arts center, including the juried ceramics exhibit Out of the Fire. 11 a.m., Concordia College Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 647–2064.

"Dexter's Victorian Christmas": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. See 5 Saturday. Following today's festivities, the annual Holiday Light Parade features cars and floats decorated with lights (6 p.m.). 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

*"Do What You Love!": Originations. Local entrepreneur Shawn Mason Spence discusses his book about turning a hobby or passion into a career. Noon-2 p.m., Originations, Courtyard Shops, 1671 Plymouth Rd. Free, but reservations requested.

*"Holiday Cookie Decorating": People's Food Co-op. All invited to decorate a variety of cookies baked by Food Co-op staff. Recipes available. 1–3 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested, 769–0095.

*Metro Detroit Christian Artist Association Exhibit: Originations. Exhibit of prints, paintings, and more. Refreshments. 2–6 p.m., Originations, Courtyard Shops, 1671 Plymouth Rd. Free. 662–9197.

*"Paper Snowflakes": Nicola's Books. Retired U-M physician Thomas Clark, locally famous for his incredibly intricate cut-paper snowflakes, leads a workshop on making these delicate ornaments. Bring a sharp pair of scissors. Clark's snowflakes are displayed in the store throughout December. 2 p.m., Nicola's Books (Little Professor), Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.

"Skate with Santa": Ann Arbor Parks Departnent. Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages and hand out holiday treats. Parents are invited to bring their cameras. 2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. (next to Cobblestone Farm). \$3 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, \$2.50). Skate rentals available (\$2). 971–3228. ment. Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages

★"On a Whitetail's Trail": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner discusses how to track a deer and then leads a hike to look for tracks, scat, deer beds, and maybe even a deer or two. 4 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee. \$3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. December 12 & 19. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, cellular phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark). Free. 480-4514.

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JOE: It's safer with somebody else helping you watch the road.

JIM: If you figure it costs 32 and a half cents a mile to operate a car, we're saving a LOT of money.

From left: Dave, Joe, Jim

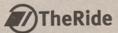


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EVENTS continued

*"Jitterbug": Barnes & Noble. Nationally ac claimed Whitmore Lake novelist Loren Estleman is on hand to sign copies of his new thriller, the 5th if his popular series of historical mystery novels set in and around Detroit. 6:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6475.

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"Art and Eats." December 12 & 13. Stroll through locations in the Market Place Building, enjoy delicious snacks from Sweet Lorraine's, and view works by local artists, including Jeanne Adwani's multime dia sculpture, Bonnie Penet's spirit icons, Christine Schopieray's metal works and jewelry, Brenda Oelbaum's cookie art, and Larry Rehak's clothing 6:30–9:30 p.m. (December 12) & 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (December 13), Market Place Bldg. (Sweet Lorraine's, DeBoer Gallery, Animalty, & Michael Susanne Hair Salon), by the Farmers' Market, Detroit St. at Catherine. Free. 662-8909.

"Ballroom Dancing Night": Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing from waltzes to rumbas, with taped music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Baries, Washtenaw County's best known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. 7–8 p.m. (in struction), 8-10:30 p.m. (dancing), Pittsfield Twp. Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$3. 996-3056.

*Pathwork Lecture/Discussion Evening: Great Lakes Pathwork. Reading of one of the lectures channeled by the late Eva Pierrakos, founder of the spiritual and psychological discipline known as the Pathwork, Discussion follows. 114: "Struggle: Healthy and Unhealthy." 7-9 p.m., 2518 Jade Ct. (off S. Maple, 2 blocks north of Scio Church Rd.). Free. 665–6231, 769–0268.

*"Collectania": U-M Media Union Gallery. Opening reception for this exhibit of local residents art collections that have never before been publicly shown. The show runs December 7–14. 7 p.m., Media Union Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd. at Murfill North Campus. Free. 995-9241.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Arts Performing Ensemble. December 12 & 13. This local dance com pany presents Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, about ³ little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. 7 p.m., Chelsea High School Auditorium, 500 Wash ington, Chelsea. Tickets \$8 in advance at Chelseo Pharmacy, or at the door. 475-1188.

★"From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler": U-M Theater Department. See Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

Shir Chadash: Cafe TBE. Ann Zibelman Rose directs local teens in a program of jazz, pop musicshow tunes, klezmer, and comedy. Homemade refreshments. 7–10 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. \$2 cover. 665–4744.

*"Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad": U-M Women's Gymnastics. The U-M women's gymnastics team, 3 perennial Big 10 champion and national power, pre-pares for the 1998–1999 NCAA season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.

Winterfest Benefit: Michigan Friends Center-Multi-instrumentalist Laz Slomovits, sing flutist Helen Slomovits, and harpist Laurel Feder bush perform music celebrating the beauty and diversity of the earth. Preceded by supper and a home nade gifts bazaar (4-6 p.m.). Donations support the Friends Center. 7 p.m., Michigan Friends Center. Clark Lake Rd., Chelsea. Donations welcome

"Christmas at Our Place": Varsity Blues and Company. December 12 & 13. This Saline-area youth company performs a musical revue of season al songs and dance. Includes a visit from Santa and an audience sing-along. 7:30 p.m., Saline High School Auditorium, 7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Tickets \$5 at the door only. 429–2103.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 8 Tuesday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Chicago of the North American Hockey League. 7:30 p.m.

'A Winter Concert": Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. This chorus of local youngsters ages 9-16 performs selections from the program for its recent Southern tour that included a performance at Disney World-Program to be announced. Conductors are Ruth Datz, Richard Ingram, Donald Williams, and Shayla Powell. 7:30 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Tickets \$10 (families), \$7 (adults), \$4 (students & seniors) n advance or at the door. 996-4404.

'Peter Pan": Young Actors Guild. See 11 Friday-

114 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 1998

Second Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Beginners welcome. 8-11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. \$6. 996-8359.

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"Victorian Holiday Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Vintage ballroom and tradi-tional dancing to live music. Includes waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and country dances. Singles and couples of all abilities are welcome. Victorian attire encouraged but not required. Also, two pre-ball workshops today: a set dances and etiquette workshop (1-2:30 p.m.) and an advanced Polonaise workshop (2:30-4 p.m.). Live music and refreshments. 8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$20 (\$17 before November 30) includes workshops. Workshops only: \$5 each. Preregistration required. 429-0014.

*Kiri Tollacksen: U-M School of Music. This U-M music grad student offers a recital of trumpet works by George Antheil, Bach, Arban, and Michael Haydn. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

Dee Carstensen: The Ark. A highly regarded popfolk singer-songwriter from New York City who ac-companies herself on harp, Carstensen writes smart, complex songs about relationships, love, and the Search for happiness, and she sings with an absorb-ing intensity that has provoked comparisons to Joni Mitchell, Rickie Lee Jones, and Shawn Colvin. A big hit at the 1998 Ann Arbor Folk Festival. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

*"Dude Productions": William Gene Patrick Window Gallery. See 5 Saturday. Tonight: "Two Guys Posing as Bronze Sculptures in a Fountain, Water Included." 8-10 p.m.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

'Amahl and the Night Visitors": St. Francis of Assisi Church. See 11 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Tuna Christmas": P.T.D. Productions. See 10

"Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. See 3 Thursday. 8

Jim McLean: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Latin Dance Party: XL Unlimited. Ballroom dance ing to Latin music programmed by a DJ. Preceded at 8 p.m. by salsa dance lessons given by Arthur Mur-Tay Dance Studio owner Steve McFerran. 9–11 p.m., Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Independence Plaza, 5060 Jackson Rd. Tickets \$7 (\$12 includes lessons) in advances of the control of the door. in advance, \$10 (\$15 includes lessons) at the door. 817-4701.

Skeeter Brandon: Prism Productions. Top-notch bar band blues by this Raleigh, North Carolina, band led by the soulful roar of singer-keyboardist Brandon. don. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 10 p.m.), Amer's First Street Grill, 102 S. First at 14 Min. High July 10 in advance at SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 213–6000.

FILMS No films

13 SUNDAY

'23rd Annual Elmo's Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk": Elmo's Supershirts. More of a tour than a timed run. Meet at the Michigan Theater to divide into small groups, each led by a volunteer "rundeer," for a 45-minute run, jog, or walk through the U-M Diag and Arboretum. The course returns to the Michigan Theater and door prizes. Theater for refreshments, singing, and door prizes. 10 a.m. (registration), 10:15 a.m. (warm-up exercises), 10:30 a.m. (run/walk), Michigan Theater. \$1 donain. nation. 994-9898.

Monthly Gathering: Second Sunday Schmoozers. All Jewish singles invited to meet new friends over brunch. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sweet Lorraine's restaurant, 303 Detroit St. Free (pay for your own food), 973-8699.

Orienteering Meet: Southeastern Michigan Orienteering Club. All are invited to try their hand at orienteering, or "adventure running." Armed with a detailed. detailed map and compass, participants use their

map-reading skills to find several checkpoints. The first person to reach all the checkpoints and make it back to the beginning wins. Meets include courses of various lengths and difficulty to accommodate all skill levels. (Beginning instruction is available at all SMOC meets.) There is a 3-hour time limit for all courses. Noon, Bird Hills Park. (Take Maple north to Newport, then turn left on Down-Up Circle.) \$1–\$3 for maps. For information, call Paul Vandevert at 724–9330.

★Violin Studio Recital: U-M School of Music. Students of Andrew Jennings perform violin repertory. Noon, U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594

Kids' Open Mike: Oz's Music. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. 1 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Minimum donation: 25¢. Call ahead to reserve a space. 662–8283.

*Ann Arbor Civic Chorus: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a program of holiday music. 1:30 p.m., University Hospital Ist-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

"Babes in Toyland": Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids Series"). This renowned New York City-based chil-dren's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater with a lavishly staged production of its original adaptation of Victor Herbert's cheerful fantasy about the triumph of good over evil—one of the few musicals to appeal to both children and adults. The "babes"—two children shipwrecked by their evil uncle-find themselves in the magical Toyland, where Mother Goose characters come to life. Trouble arises in paradise when a villain, in pursuit of Mary Mary Quite Contrary, forces the local toy maker to aid him in his nefarious scheme. The eminently hummable score includes "Toyland," "March of the Wooden Soldiers," "Rock-a-Bye Baby," and "I Can't Do That Sum." The production features splashy special effects, colorful costumes and sets, and lavish dance numbers. Theaterworks is the country's most widely heralded producer of professional theater for young and family audiences. Its origins date from 1961, when Young Abe Lincoln became the first young people's production to play on Broadway. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$10 (MTF members, \$8.50) in advance at \$KR Pop & Rock and the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the door. To these only 162 TETS. the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

*"Christmas Portraits with Bicycling Santa": Two Wheel Tango. Kids of all ages are welcome to pose for free photos with Santa on a tandem bicycle. Cider and candy canes for kids. Toddler play area available. Also, register to win a kid's bike any time this month. 2–5 p.m., Two Wheel Tango, 3162 Packard at Platt. Free. 528–3030.

*Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks are available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. 2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747-9644, 761-1451.

*Monthly Meeting: Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for four-hand and two-piano music. Listeners welcome. 2 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663–3942, 665–2811.

*"Local Author Fair": Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library/Nicola's Books. Several local writers are on hand to sign copies of their books. Participants include Ernie Pyle biographer James Tobin, mystery novelists Loren Estleman and Jerry Prescott, crime fiction writer Lowell Cauffiel, suspense thriller novelist Craig Holden, local hist rian Russell Bidlack, aerial photographer Dale Fisher, cookbook authors Zonya Foco and Lois Kane, and more. Also, the participating authors' books are available for purchase. Refreshments. 2–4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

"Christmas at Our Place": Varsity Blues and Company. See 12 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Arts Performing Ensemble. See 12 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Peter Pan": Young Actors Guild. See 11 Friday. 2 & 6 p.m.

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. See 3 Thursday. 2 &

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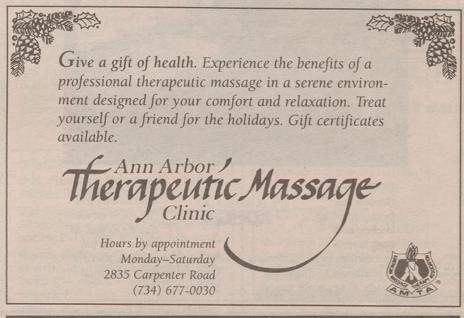
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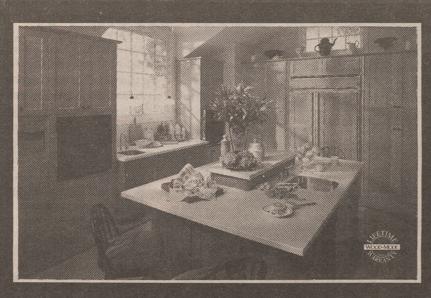
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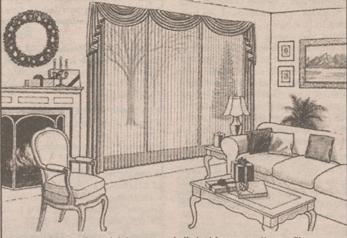
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galleries

Michigan Book Artists The book as art, again

Six years ago, the U-M Special Collections Library hosted Hands and Voices, an exquisite exhibit of handmade books featuring the works of fifteen artists from across the country. Since then, the idea of the book as art object has become more familiar to local audiences. Recent exhibits at the U-M Museum of Art and the Cranbrook Museum, among other places, have showcased a broad spectrum of artists experimenting with the form. You might even say it's become fashionable.

The current exhibit at Special Collections, which runs through December 23, is larger than the first-more than twice as many artists-and is limited to Michigan artists. Perhaps as a result, it's a more uneven show. Or maybe "book art" has simply become too popular. It seems a lot of people have figured out that you can take a book and manipulate it, mangle it, or gussy it up with found objects, and pass it off as art.

There are a number of pieces in this exhibit that seem pretentious or poorly crafted or just uninspired: a spiky construction of wire



Bookworm by Ann Savageau.

and burnt paper scraps, a hardcover book spattered with oil paint, a pencil-stub collage. Some promise more than they deliver: James Cogswell's Parthenon Plumb Bobs is a mildly amusing mobile of books that have been dipped in wax and twisted to resemble gyros, spanakopita, or other Greek foods-ultimately more cutesy than clever.

For the most part, the highly experimental or sculptural works in this exhibit are actually less interesting than those that hew more closely to the original book form. Co-curator Jean Buescher's finely crafted Impronta pairs an original poem with her selenium-toned photographs of an Italian garden. The pages are divided in thirds and can be combined and recombined for different effects. Patti Scobey's Under Falling Questions is a gorgeous series of richly colored and textured prints, and well-known local artists Elaine Wilson and Janie Paul have produced some beautifully worked prints as their contributions to this exhibit.

The most successful experimental pieces are subtle. Bookbinder Len Muir's Solitude is a lovely, simple work-all white with a "window" that reveals a tree silhouette. Linda Soberman's Exposed I Am is a metal book that incorporates intriguing transparencies and zigzag stitching. Mi-Kyoung Lee's My Phenomenology, a representation of human cell division, is a wonderful work whose pages of graduated colors are literally woven of paper and thread. It's a perfect example of an artist investing the form with thoughtful-

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New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. Eclectic Paintings by Ginger Papania and Elaine Rice (December 1–31). Edward Klein: Digital Images of Gallup Park (December 1-31). 327-4510.

Clare Spitler Works of Art. Past, Present, and Future: The Annual Theme Show (December 6-January 26). See 6 Sunday. 662-8914.

Gallery 212. Behind the Mask (December 11-January 3). See 11 Friday. 665-8224.

Greg Sobran Studio. Watercolors (December 5-13). See 5 Saturday. 996-0406.

Kerrytown Concert House. Edith Maynard and Teresa Freed: Images of Everyday Life (December 3-January 3). See 3 Thursday. 769-2999.

U-M College Gallery (College of Architecture and Urban Planning). James Carpenter: Glass Work (through December 11). 764-1300.

U-M Institute for the Humanities. Kai Kim and Ann Savageau (November 30-January 30). See 8 Tuesday. 936-3518.

U-M Media Union. Collectania (December 7-14). See 12 Saturday. 647-5275.

U-M Museum of Art. Drawings by Delacroix (December 5-January 24).

764-0395.

U-M Pierpont Commons. Chelsea Painters (December 1-20). 764-7544.

U-M Slusser Gallery. Staci Kerman: 3 Dimensions, 2 Scales, 1 Designer (December 2-14). See 4 Friday. 763-4417.

Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art). Jarupatcha Achavasmit: Interlacing (December 1-14). See 4 Friday.

William Gene Patrick Window Gallery. Dude Productions (December 5-31). See 5 Saturday. 483-0183.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 1998-1999 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Devel-Opment Program. See 8 Tuesday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Chicago of the North American Hockey League. 3 p.m.

Japanese Tea Ceremony: U-M Museum of Art. Tea ceremony practitioners enact a traditional Japanese tea ceremony (about 25 minutes) in the museum's beautiful teahouse, followed by a short discussion on the ritual's symbolism. This month's theme: "Downy Flakes: An Unseasonable Flower Over the Flowerless Field." Preceded by shakuhachi (Japanese flute) music performed by Michael Gould. Space fills up quickly at this popular monthly event; arrive early to be sure of a seat. 3 p.m., UMMA, 525 State at South University. \$3 suggested donation.

*2nd Annual Holiday Sing: The Friends of the Michigan League. All invited to gather around U-M music professor Marilyn Mason at the League's re-stored parlor organ to sing holiday songs. Refreshments. 3 p.m., Michigan League. Free. 647-7463.

"Holiday Concert": Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley conducts this volunteer ensemble in a program of seasonal music, including Morton Gould's "Home for Christmas," Jose Feliciano's "Feliz Navidad," Percy Grainger's "Christmas March," Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day," and more. Also, a Christmas sing-along and visit by Santa & friends. 3 p.m., Dexter High School gym, 2615 Baker Rd., Dexter. Free. 769–3538.

ing-Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa, with piano accompaniment by AASO business manager Lori Cheek. Also, a Pioneer High string quartet performs selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, and Tyler Duncan plays the bagpipes. 3:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church

of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$5 (children), \$10 (adults), \$25 (families), & \$50 (patrons), available in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994-4801.

"Festival of Lights 5K and Captec Kris Kringle Kilometer": Athletic Ventures. All invited to join a 5 km run or walk through the holiday lights at Domino's Farms. Kids 12 & under can take part in a 1 km run/walk. All kids receive a glow necklace, finisher's ribbon, and post-event pizza. Handcrafted tiles by local artist Nancy Solo are awarded to the top finishers in the 5 km event. 3:45 p.m. (1 km) & 4:30 p.m. (5 km), Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). 5 km entry fees: \$16 by December 1, \$20 by December 12, \$24 day of race. 1 km entry fees: \$5 by December 12, \$8 day of race. For entry forms, visit the website at www.athleticventures.com or call 662-1000 or 332-3981.

*Charles Daval: U-M School of Music. This U-M trumpet professor performs solo works to be announced. 4 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus, Free, 764-0594.

"Time for Rejoicing": Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. William Boggs directs this acclaimed local chorus in a program that includes Bach's Magnificat, Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, and other works. Soloists include Julia Broxholm, Wendy Bloom, Brian Pfaltzgraff, and Chris Grapentine. The choir has recently released a CD, A Christmas Quilt. 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets \$10 (students, \$5) in advance and at the

"A Sunset Concert of Christmas Carols: Medieval and Beyond": Academy of Early Music. Lynn Malley directs the Ann Arbor Grail Singers, a local women's a cappella chorus, in a program that shows the evolution of the Christmas carol through the centuries. 4 p.m., University Reformed Church, 1001 E. Huron, Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$9) in advance at SKR Classical and at the door.

*Christmas Concert: Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music school dean Willis Patterson directs this local chorus in a program of seasonal music, with an emphasis on carols composed and/or arranged by African-Americans. 4 p.m., Second Baptist Church, 850 Red Oak. Free. 677-4407.

*Hanukkah Parties: Hillel. At least 3 different celebrations are planned for tonight-one for undergrads, one for grads and professionals, and one for secular humanist Jews-but they all involve latkes and sufganiot (jelly doughnuts). 6 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St., and other locations to be announced. Free.

*Horn Studio Recital: U-M School of Music. Students of Bryan Kennedy perform horn repertory. 7:30 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★39th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. All invited to join this local Christmas tradition. Congregation members read nine lessons that tell the story of God's dealings with mankind, from the fall of Adam and Eve through Old Testament prophecy and the birth of Christ. Each lesson has an associated hymn or carol, some sung by the choir and some by the congregation. St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs are under the direction of Tom Strode. Music includes Philip Ledger's "Adam lay ybounden," Andrew Carter's "A Maiden most gentle," Walford Davies's "The holly and the ivy," William Mathias's "Wassail Carol," John Taverner's Setting of Blake's "The Lamb," and a guitar and choir arrangement of Franz



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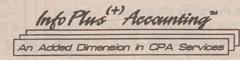
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Gruber's "Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht!" The Junior Choir sings Canadian composer Derek Holman's setting of "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree." Also, the St. Dunstan's English Handbell Choir rings out "The Sleep of the Infant Jesus" and the Hispanic folk car-ol "A la ru," in an arrangement for bells and guitar. The program concludes with a congregational singing of William Mathias's "Wassail Carol." 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but an offering is taken to benefit the St. Andrew's breakfast program and the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor. 663–0518.

Over the Rhine: Prism Productions. Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this Cincinnati quartet that opened for the Cowboy Junkies at the Michigan Theater last month. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, selfconsciously literary lyrics. Its latest CD, The Darkest Night of the Year, is a melancholy Christmas album featuring both traditional carols and unconventional original takes on the season, so this is probably the best time of year to catch them. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$10 in advance at SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; \$12 at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

25th Annual Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash: First Unitarian Church. This year's concert honors Rag-time Bash founder Bill Albright, the U-M music school composer-pianist who died in September. The popular annual tradition features piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with some boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's lineup of top-notch local performers includes pianists Mike Montgomery, James Dapogny, Bob Seeley, Waleed Howrani, and Bolcom and Morris (the duo of pianist Bill Bolcom and soprano Joan Morris), among others. 8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$8) at the door only. 665-6158.

"A Tuna Christmas": P.T.D. Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Firelight" (William Nicholson, 1997). December 13-15. In 19th-century England, a poor woman agrees to bear the child of a wealthy man and give up the baby at birth, but she is later reunited with lover and daughter when she becomes the girl's governess. Mich., 5 & 7:15 p.m.

14 MONDAY

*"A 'Festival of Light' Classics": Washtenaw Community College. WCC faculty and students perform light classical selections in honor of the Jewish festival of lights, Hanukkah. Bring a bag lunch. Drawing for a \$20 SKR Classical gift certifi-cate or tickets to a University Musical Society event. Noon, Washtenaw Community College, 150 Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free.

★Women's Book Group: Guild House. December 14 & 28. All women invited to discuss David Shipler's A Country of Strangers: Blacks and Whites in America. Noon-1 p.m. Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662-5189.

*Working Writers Group. December 14 & 28. All invited to join a discussion with members of this group that provides support and critiques for writers interested in publishing their poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Observers welcome. 7-9 p.m., 2910 Marshall. Free. For information, call Dale at 973-0776.

*"Health and Chiropractic": Network Chiropractic Center. December 14 & 28. A series of talks by local chiropractor Rob Koliner. Tonight: "Chiropractic and Its Influence on Health." Also this month: "Creating Optimal Health" (December 28). 8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free. Reservations requested.

★Writers Series: Guild House. All invited to bring their favorite poems, along with your own poems, to read at this holiday party. Snacks, punch, hot beverages. 8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.

MTF. "Firelight" (William Nicholson, 1997). See 13 Sunday. Mich., 7 & 9:15 p.m.

15 TUESDAY

"Searching the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on introduction to Web

search and metasearch engines and subject directories. Open to all AADL cardholders. Note: A free version of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, is offered at the Northeast Branch (December 8, 3 p.m.). 9:30 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327-4550

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*Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. December 15, 22, & 29. Activities feature a meeting of the ABC Quilters (1-3 p.m.), a quilt-making party to make quilts for HIV-infected babies. Also, mah-jongg. All invited. 1-3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

*Heart Health Screening: Washtenaw County. County public health staff discuss how to maintain a healthy heart. Also, free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings. 3-6 p.m., Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium. Free. 971-3366.

'Moving Beyond the Basics": Ann Arbor District Library. Introduction to the finer details of using a web browser, including using bookmarks, saving to disk, and how to evaluate websites. Open to all AADL cardholders. Note: A free version of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, is offered at the Loving Branch (December 16, 7 p.m.). 3 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327-4550.

★General Meeting and Potluck: Sierra Club Monthly Meeting. Potluck dinner (bring your own utensils and a dish to pass) and socializing, followed by a members' slide show at 7:30 p.m. All welcome. 6:30 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665-7345.

*Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 1 Tuesday. Tonight: choral music by The Arbor Consort. 7 p.m.

*Gallery Reading Series: EMU Intermedia Gallery. Poetry and fiction readings by EMU creative writing teacher Jean Prafke, Washtenaw Community College creative writing teacher Lynette Lao, and EMU creative writing grad student Aaron Reuland. 7:30-9 p.m., Intermedia Gallery, EMU McKenny Union, Ypsilanti. Free. 761-6593.

FILMS

MTF. "Firelight" (William Nicholson, 1997). See 13 Sunday. Mich., 7 & 9:15 p.m.

16 WEDNESDAY

★"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library. December 16, 23, & 30 (different programs). A series of 30-minute film programs for preschoolers. Today: Four animated shorts adapted from children's stories, Marjorie Flack's "Angus Lost" (a clever, curious Scottish terrier escapes from his yard for an adventure around town), Storybook Theater's "A Boy, A Dog, and a Frog" (a boy and his dog spend the day trying to capture a playful frog), Steven Kellogg's "The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash" (a boy brings his pet boa constrictor on a class trip to a farm), and James Stevenson's "Mon-ty" (the story of a friendly alligator who serves as a axi for 3 kids). Recommended for preschoolers. 10:30-11 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William, Free. Space limited; first come, first seated.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 2 Wednesday. 3:30-5:15 p.m.

Monthly Meeting: Homeopathic Study Group. Anyone with some knowledge of or experience with homeopathic medicine is invited to join this study location to be announced. \$3, 429-7757

*Holiday Party: Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited. All invited to enjoy food, drink, and tall (mostly fishing) tales. 7 p.m., MacGregor's Outdoors, 803 N. Main. Free. 761-9200.

*Monthly Meeting: Arbor Technology Council. All invited to discuss issues at the intersection of technology, society, and commerce. This month's topics: "Ramifications of the Increasing Rate of Technological Change," "The Role of Hierarchy in Systems Design," and "Current Concepts of Machine Intelligence." 7:30-9:30 p.m., Aliaron, Visita 301 (3rd fleen) Market Place Plate Design Suite 301 (3rd floor), Market Place Bldg., Detroit St. at Catherine. Free. Reservations required. 769-1177

*Hanukkah Program: Hebrew Day School. San Slomovits directs HDS students (grades K-5) in Hanukkah and other traditional Jewish songs. 7:30 Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

MTF, "Monument Avenue" (Ted Demme, 1998). December 16–19. Dark, unsettling portrait of the Boston Irish crime underworld. Martin Sheen, Colm Meaney. Mich., 7 & 9:15 p.m.

17 THURSDAY

*"International Day": International Neighbors. International Neighbors members demonstrate and discuss some of their native New Year traditions. International Neighbors is a 40-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Its membership currently includes 756 women from 82 countries. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. 9:30-11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 769-0587

*1998 Greater Ypsilanti Santa Claus Project: A. Green Financial Group. December 17-19 & 21-23. Santa arrives in downtown Ypsilanti on a fire truck escorted by two police cruisers, and is on hand the next two weekends to meet fans in a fantastically decorated Santa Land. 5-8 p.m. (Thurs. & Fri.), 1-6 p.m. (Sat.), A. Green Financial Group, 10 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Free. 485-7100.

*Annual Caroling Party and Luminaria Display: Glacier Hills Retirement Center. Some 1,000 luminarias (traditional Mexican Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community sing-along. Refreshments. All welcome. 7–8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 663-5202.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. 7–9:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence (off Packard). Free. 434-5152.

*Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 1 Tuesday. Tonight: the vocal-guitar duo Sol-

*General Meeting: Ann Arbor Democratic Party. Discussion topic to be announced. All invited. 30 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 480-4986.

*Monthly Meeting: Michigan Association of American Mothers. All women invited to join a lively discussion on family and parenting issues Meeting includes a presentation followed by small discussion groups. Currently the group is discussing Spears and Braund's Strong-Willed Child or Dream er? and Lawrence Shapiro's How to Raise a Child with a High EQ (Emotional Quotient). Also, members are making baby quilts for high-risk infants in local hospitals. 7:30 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free to visitors (\$25 annual dues for those who join). 741-8336.

*African-American Book Discussion Group: Packard Community Clinic. All invited to discuss Bell Hooks's Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Packard Community Clinic, 3174 Packard Rd. Free. 747–8016.

*Monthly Meeting: Washtenaw Linux Users Group. All invited to discuss issues related to Linux, a Unix-like alternative to Microsoft operating systems for Intel, Alpha, and PowerPC microprocessors. 8 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Technical & Industrial Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr.

John E. Lawrence: Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz concert by this acclaimed acoustic and electric guitarist, a Washtenaw Community College jazz instructor who tonight celebrates the release of Old Smooth, a CD collection of 60s, 70s, and 80s standards. He also plays material from his Christmas album, Merry Christmas from John E. Lawrence. He is accompanied by Straight Ahead pianist Eileen Ore, bassist Rudolf Washington Jr., and drummer Rudolf Washington III. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. 88 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

"Brave New World Revisited, Revisited": U-M Theater Department/Performance Network. December 17-20. U-M directing grad student Amy Kullenberg directs U-M drama students in her adaptation of Aldous Huxley's utopian novel that examines the relevance of Huxley's vision to a contemporary audience. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$9; Thursdays, whatever you can afford to pay) in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Tuna Christmas": P.T.D. Productions. See 10

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Chris Zito: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 17-19. The morning show host on the Planet (WJR's FM sister station), Zito is an emerging Mainstreet favorite known for fresh, clever topical humor. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996-9080.

MTF. "Monument Avenue" (Ted Demme, 1998). See 16 Wednesday. Mich., 7 & 9:15 p.m.

18 FRIDAY

Hanukkah Celebration: Temple Beth Emeth. The temple's high school and middle school youth groups serve a family latke dinner (bring a side dish or salad to share), followed by family services at 7:30 p.m. Includes songs by the TBE Youth Choir and menorah lighting (bring your own). Followed by dessert. 6:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Nominal dinner cost to be announced. For dinner reservations, call 665–4744.

Christmas Dance: Ann Arbor Ski Club. All invited to enjoy dancing to music played by a DJ, a visit from Santa, Christmas caroling, and delicious food and beverages at this charming historic site in Saline. 7-10 p.m., Weller's Carriage House, 555 W. Michigan, Saline. \$50. Reservations required. Call Barbara at 439-1102.

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Southeast Conference. December 18-20. Tonight: Dexter vs. Pinckney and Chelsea vs. Saline. The championship and consolation games are tomorrow. 7:30 p.m. (December 18) & 7 p.m. (December 19), Veterans Ice Are-na, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths 17 & under and seniors 60 & older, \$3.50). 761-7240.

*Monthly Meeting: Professional Volunteer Corps. All singles 25 and older invited to join this organization that provides volunteers for various community projects. Each month, members vote on which service projects to sponsor and plan upcoming social outings. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing and orientation for newcomers. 7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 747-6801.

★Monthly Meeting: Viva Ventures. All physically active seniors (age 50 and over) invited to help plan and organize hiking, biking, canoeing, camping, skiing, or white-water rafting excursions. 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. For information, call Bud Tracy at 663-3077.

*Monthly Meeting: University Lowbrow Astronomers. Speaker and topic to be announced. 7:30 p.m., 807 Dennison Hall, 501 East University. Free.

Raisin Pickers: The Ark. Old-time jug band dance music, western swing, and newgrass by this Man-chester-based string quartet. Members are guitarist Mark Palms, bassist Carol Palms, mandolinist David Mosher, and fiddler James Sneyd. They are joined by Appalachian clogger Sheila Graziano. Tonight the band celebrates the release of a new CD, Handed Down. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. \$10 (members, students, & seniors, \$9) at the door only. 761-1451.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 18-20. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the story of a lit-tle girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. More than 100 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. Principal dancers include Megan Edwards, Brent Caburnay, Annette Barcelona, and Michael Phillips. Performed to live music by the Michigan Sinfonietta and the Slauson Middle School Choir under the direction of Leo Najar. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$18 (seniors, students, & groups of 20 or more, \$10 each; children 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Innocent Thoughts": Performance Network Professional Premiere Series. See 3 Thursday. 8

"A Tuna Christmas": P.T.D. Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Brave New World Revisited, Revisited": U-M Theater Department/Performance Network. See 17 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Chris Zito: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.







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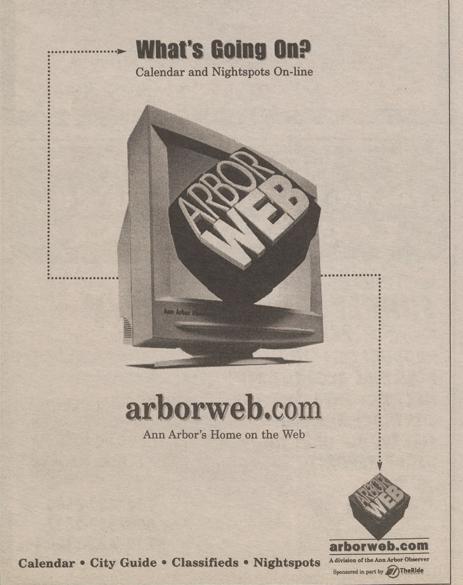
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EVENTS continued

*Ginka Ortega: Espresso Royale Caffe. Spanish and flamenco music by this local flutist, who is accompanied by guitarist Bishr Hijazi (see review, p. 113) and percussionist Glenn Bering. 9-11 p.m., Espresso Royale, 214 S. Main. Free. 668-1838.

Root Doctor: Prism Productions. Lansing quintet led by vocalist Freddie Cunningham and guitarist Scott Allman, featuring a rich, varied blues and R&B repertoire that ranges from ZZ Hill to Billie Holiday to B. B. King to Bobby Blue Band. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 10 p.m.), Amer's First Street Grill, 102 S. First at Huron. Tickets \$6 in advance at SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; \$8 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 213–6000.

MTF. "Monument Avenue" (Ted Demme, 1998). See 16 Wednesday. Mich., 7 p.m. "Lolita" (Adrian Lyne, 1998). *December 18–23*. Adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov's infamous novel. Jeremy Irons, Dominique Swain. Mich., 9:45 p.m.

19 SATURDAY

52nd Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into eight regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced bird-watchers is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small (\$5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in American Bird. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at a WAS member's home this evening. 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Mike Kielb at 995-4357 or Nancy French at 426–3068. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.

★Monthly Meeting: MacTechnics. All Macintosh computer users invited to join this networking organization. Presentation topics to be announced. Also, small groups representing more than a dozen special interests meet concurrently to share tips and information. Beginners welcome. Coffee and socializing. 9 a.m.-noon, Electrical Engineering/Computer Sci ence Bldg., Beal Ave. (off Bonisteel Blvd.), North Campus. Free. 971-8743.

"A Cold Winter's Light"/"Light Years from Andromeda": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday & Sunday beginnning December 19, with weekday holiday shows on December 21-23 & 28-30. "A Cold Winter's Light" (10:30 & 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 1, 2, & 3 p.m. weekdays) is an audiovisual show about the stars, constellations, and planets currently visible in the sky. "Light Years from Andromeda" (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 3:30 p.m. Saturdays & Sundays) is an audiovisual show narrated by actor Michael Dorn (best known as Worf on Star Trek) that shows the changes that occurred on Earth during the 2.8 million years it took a light beam to travel from Andromeda. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. \$3.25 (seniors & children 12 & under, \$3). "Light Years from Andromeda" is not recommended for kids under 7.

*Barbara Barrett: GoodArts (Aurora Borealis Productions). This Royal Oak singer-songwriter performs emotionally stirring originals that have inspired comparisons to Jewel. Followed by Detroit singer-songwriter Leslie Frederick, who performs classic and original folk rock (12:30-2 p.m.). Refreshments for sale. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Pierce's Pastries Plus, 103 W. Middle St., Chelsea. Free.

★"Harry Potter Party": Barnes & Noble. All kids invited to join a party for broom races, dragon hatching, and other activities based on J. K. Rowling's award-winning new children's book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Prizes. Parents invited to enjoy a free sample of Starbucks's holiday blend while their kids play. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6475.

*Cello Studio Recital: U-M School of Music. Stu-

dents of Anthony Elliott perform cello repertory. 2 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Gr SK

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★"Curious About Kwanzaa?": Originations. Local residents discuss how they celebrate this African-American holiday, with suggestions for parents, teachers, and day care providers. Children who sub-mit a 1-page essay describing their family's Kwanzaa celebration are entered in a drawing for a kinara (Kwanzaa candleholder). Refreshments. 3–5:30 p.m., Originations, Courtyard Shops, 1671 Plymouth Rd. Free. 662-9197.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 40 boys in its 12th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city" and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing and it features Brother Heinrich's Christmas, John Rutter's fable about the origins of the carol "In dulci jubilo." This piece is accompanied by a small chamber ensemble that features 13-year-old harp virtuoso Allegra Lilly. Boychoir administrator Meg Kennedy narrates. Also, John Rutter's "What sweeter music" and other traditional carols. The boy singers are supplemented by men singers, who pro-vide the lower choral parts, and the choir is accompanied by an organist, to be announced, on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter pipe organ. The Boychoir's 20-member Preparatory Choir performs John Barnard's "Travellers' Tales" and Harold Darke's setting of "In the bleak mid-winter." The program concludes with a sing-along of traditional carols This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so come early for a good seat. 3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$12 (students, \$6; families, \$30) in advance and at the door, 663–5377.

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. See 12 Saturday. 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

"Child of Promise." Local medicine woman Mateyo Empie leads a Peruvian-inspired Yuletide celebration, with gift exchange and a holiday feast. location to be announced. To register, call 663-5505 or E-mail Snakewillo@aol.com

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers. Live music by Pittsfield Union Jam Band, with callers Peter Baker and Robin Warner. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Wear casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Free open jam for string band musicians of all levels 4-6 p.m. 8-11:30 p.m., Pittsmusicians of all levels 4-6 p.m. 8-11:30 p.m., Pitts-field Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$7. 665-8863, 426-0241.

"A Baroque Holiday": Michigan Chamber Brass. Paul Eachus directs this local brass and percussion ensemble in a program featuring Baroque music, including arrangements of Bach's Violin Concerto and Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. Also, seasonal tunes, including John Rutter's "Ding Dong Merrily on High," Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song," and more. 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. \$10 (students & seniors, \$7); group discounts available. 485-2902.

RFD Boys: The Ark. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend topnotch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including the Schoolkids' CD *Live and Unrehearsed*, a recording of a 1994 Ark performance. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. \$10 (members, students, & seniors, \$9) at the door only. 761-1451.

★"Dude Productions": William Gene Patrick Window Gallery. See 5 Saturday. Tonight: "Two Guys Floating Three Feet Off the Ground Meditating." 8–10 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 18 Friday, 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Boom Town": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Tuna Christmas": P.T.D. Productions. See 10

"Brave New World Revisited, Revisited": U-M Theater Department/Performance Network. See 17 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Chris Zito: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

The Kinsey Report: Prism Productions. Lean. gritty urban blues, soulful and funky, by this acclaimed band from Gary, Indiana, led by guitarist Dave Kinsey, a former member of the Wailers and Peter Tosh's band. The band's debut Alligator LP, Midnight Drive, got lots of national airplay. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 10 p.m.), Amer's First Street

Grill, 102 S. First at Huron. Tickets \$8 in advance at \$KR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; \$10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 213–6000.

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MTF. "Gadjo Dilo" (Tony Gatlif, 1998). December 19–21. A Parisian wanders through the backwoods of Romania in search of a gypsy singer worshipped by his deceased father. Mich., 5 p.m. "Lolita" (Adrian Lyne, 1998). See 18 Friday. Mich., 7 p.m. "Monument Avenue" (Ted Demme, 1998). See 16 Wednesday. Mich., 9:45 p.m.

20 SUNDAY

*"Advent Service Music": First Presbyterian Church Festival Sunday. First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn directs the church's chancel choir, soloists, and orchestra in performances of Bach's Magnificat and "Winter" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. 9:30 & 11 a.m. worship services, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466

*"The Lyndon Valley": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC's entertaining and informative Matt Heumann leads a walk around Park Lyndon and discusses the terrain. 10 a.m., Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.

34th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous Christmas oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by First Methodist Church chancel choir director Bob Pratt, who was for many years the choral director at Pioneer High. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The "Prout" edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. I p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. 1–3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$1.75), 761–7240.

"A Cold Winter's Light"/"Light Years from Andromeda": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 19 Saturday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("A Cold Winter's Light"); 3:30 p.m. ("Light Years from Andromeda").

*Monthly Meeting: Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Speaker to be announced, followed by small discussion groups. 2-5 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division at Catherine. Free. 741-0659.

Tree of Remembrance: Arbor Hospice. All invited to a nondenominational ceremony dedicating a tree hung with handmade ornaments honoring or memorializing loved ones. Ornament sales support Arbor Hospice's patient and family care programs. 2 p.m., Arbor Hospice residence, 2366 Oak Valley Dr. Sliding scale donation for ornaments. To pre-order, call 662-5909

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 18 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Brave New World Revisited, Revisited": U-M Theater Department/Performance Network. See 17 Thursday. 2 p.m.

*Ecumenical Service: U-M Campus Chapel. This monthly service features singing of meditative music from the ecumenical community of Taize, France. The service also includes prayer, meditation, readings, silence, and Holy Communion. All invited. 6 p.m., U-M Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. (off Washtenaw, 1 block south of Geddes). Free. 668-7421, 662-2402.

"House Blend" Series: Ann Arbor Playwrights. See 6 Sunday. Tonight: Who Saw Her Die?, Robb Rucker's noir screenplay about an inspector's quest to expose the killer of a Swedish exchange student. 6 p.m.

"Winter Solstice Family Stories and Hike": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Storytelling around a campfire, followed by a candlelit hike. 7–8:30 p.m.,

Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$4 (families, \$15). Preregistration required. 662–7802.

FILMS

MTF. "Gadjo Dilo" (Tony Gatlif, 1998). See 19 Saturday. Mich., 5 p.m. "Lolita" (Adrian Lyne, 1998). See 18 Friday. Mich., 7 p.m.

21 MONDAY

"A Cold Winter's Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 19 Saturday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

★"Meet Your Local Witch Night": Magical Education Council of Ann Arbor. All practicing Wiccans and interested persons invited for an evening of networking, discussion, refreshments, and fun. 6–8 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 761–1137.

*"Six Success Strategies for the Move Up Home Buyer": The Buyer's Agent. Real estate professionals lead a discussion on how to simultaneously sell your current home and buy a new one. 7–8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free, but preregistration required. 662–6240.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Hampton. 7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15. 764-0247.

FILMS

MTF. "Gadjo Dilo" (Tony Gatlif, 1998). See 19 Saturday. Mich., 7 p.m. "Lolita" (Adrian Lyne, 1998). See 18 Friday. Mich., 9 p.m.

22 TUESDAY

"A Cold Winter's Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 19 Saturday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

Solstice Party (English Country Dancing): Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Workshop and dancing led by Helen White, Don Theyken, and Eric Arnold, with live music by David West and Donna Baird. Bring treats to share. All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes. 7–9:45 p.m., Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). \$4.662–5158.

★Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 1 Tuesday. Tonight: the Oakwood Band. 7 p.m.

MTF. "Lolita" (Adrian Lyne, 1998). See 18 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:45 p.m.

23 WEDNESDAY

★"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library. See 16 Wednesday. Today: Four animated shorts adapted from children's stories: Jack Kent's "Joey Runs Away" (a boy looks for a new room to avoid having to clean his own), Helme Heine's "The Pig's Wedding" (two pigs marry and celebrate with their friends in splendid fashion), James Stevenson's "What's Under My Bed?" (grandpa tells his two young houseguests a story about his own childhood when he was scared at bedtime), and the classic "Three Little Pigs." Recommended for preschoolers. 10:30–11 a.m.

"A Cold Winter's Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 19 Saturday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 2 Wednesday. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Lolita" (Adrian Lyne, 1998). See 18 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:45 p.m.

24 THURSDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) & youths (1-5 p.m.). 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$1.75).

★"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's Chancel Choir and Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. 5:30 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.

★Family Candlelight Service: Northside Community Church. Live music accompanies this retelling of the Christmas story, as children place figures into a Nativity scene. Includes scripture readings, carol singing, and a congregational singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. 6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton. Free. 662–6351.

★28th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church. A candlelight service of

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EVENTS continued

readings and carols sung by the church choir and congregation, based on the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). John Reed Floyd directs; organist is Edward Schramm. Child care available. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.

FILMS

No films.

25 FRIDAY (Christmas)

FILMS

MTF. "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). December 25–31. Fully restored new release of this film classic. Mich., 3 p.m. "Waking Ned Devine" (Kirk Jones, 1998). December 25–31. Comedy about a small Irish village excited by the rumor that one of the residents has a winning lottery ticket. Mich., 5, 7, & 9 p.m.

26 SATURDAY

★"Games Workshop Painting Clinic": The Underworld. Underworld staffers demonstrate the finer points of painting miniatures used in Games Workshop tabletop games. Bring your own miniatures; paint & brushes provided. 1 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.

John Heffron: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. A South Lyon native and EMU grad who is featured on WKQI's *Q Crew* morning show in Detroit, Heffron specializes in observations about the indignities and absurdities of life from the point of view of children and young people. A local favorite since his days as a Mainstreet opening act. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 5:45, 8:15, & 10:45 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$16 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.

Holiday Dance: Ann Arbor Ballroom Dance Club. Ballroom dancing to recorded music. Partner recommended. Refreshments. 9–11:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). \$7.426–2746, 665–5689.

FILMS

MTF. "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). See 25 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m. "Waking Ned Devine" (Kirk Jones, 1998). See 25 Friday. Mich., 5, 7, & 9 p.m.

27 SUNDAY

★"Vegan Potluck and Holiday Party": Vegetarian Information Network & Exchange. All invited to a vegan (vegetarian with no dairy, egg, or honey ingredients) potluck. Bring a dish to pass (with recipe), serving utensil, plates, cutlery, and cup. 2:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 426–8525, (517) 423–3226.

★Kwanzaa Celebration: African-American Cultural and Historical Museum. An art exhibit and sale of food, clothing, arts and crafts, jewelry, and books. Children's activities (5–6:30 p.m.) include storytelling and games. Also, a Kwanzaa candlelighting ceremony (7 p.m.) 4–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free, 434–5507.

George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown: The Ark. Billed as a Swing, Country, Rockabilly, Blues, & Rock 'n' Roll Blowout," this popular annual post-Christmas show, now in its 3rd year, features an all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor-bred roots-rock musicians. A trio led by guitar genius Bedard and featur-ing bassist Randy Tessier and drummer Rich Dishman, the Kingpins have been Ann Arbor's-and one of the country's-best honky-tonk dance bands for nearly a decade. They have released two critically acclaimed CDs on the Schoolkids' label. Dubbed "America's greatest houserocker" by best-selling horror novelist Stephen King, Cub Koda is the for-mer leader of Brownsville Station, the Ann Arbor-based early 70s rock group best known for its hit single "Smokin' in the Boys Room." His most re-cent CD, Abba Dabba Dabba: A Bananza of Hits, was also released on the Schoolkids' label. An Ann Arbor native who first gained fame as the guitarist in Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, Kirchen plays a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs. Brown is an Ann Arbor native who in the late 70s moved to Austin, Texas, where she plays in several blues bands and regularly wins the Austin Chronicle award as the city's best bassist. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning 2 weeks before the show) at SKR Pop & Rock and Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call

FILMS

MTF. "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). See 25 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m. "Waking Ned Devine" (Kirk Jones, 1998). See 25 Friday. Mich., 5, 7, & 9 p.m.

28 MONDAY

"Flying Fun": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Holiday Break Program. December 28–31. Dropin hands-on craft activities for ages 5 and up. Using simple materials, build a circular glider, a helicopter, and a NASA boomerang. Also, U-M chemistry research scientist Anjanette Koritnik offers demonstrations on "The Amazing World of Gases" (1 & 3 p.m. daily). 1–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron St. at Fifth Ave. Museum admission: \$5 (adults), \$3 (students, seniors, & children). Group discounts available. 995–5439.

"A Cold Winter's Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 19 Saturday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

TILMS

MTF. "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). See 25 Friday. Mich., 5 p.m. "Waking Ned Devine" (Kirk Jones, 1998). See 25 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

29 TUESDAY

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"Flying Fun": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Holiday Break Program. See 28 Monday. 1-4 p.m. "A Cold Winter's Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 19 Saturday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

FILMS

MTF, "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). See 25 Friday. Mich., 5 p.m. "Waking Ned Devine" (Kirk Jones, 1998). See 25 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

30 WEDNESDAY

*"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library. See 16 Wednesday. Today: "Sarah, Plain and Tall" (Glenn Jordan, 1991) stars Glenn Close and Christopher Walken in an adaptation of Patricia MacLachlan's children's novel about a Maine schoolteacher who travels to Kansas in 1910 to take charge of a widowed farmer's family. Recommended for kids age 6 & up. 10:30 a.m.—12:10 p.m.

"Flying Fun": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Holiday Break Program. See 28 Monday. 1–4 p.m. "A Cold Winter's Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 19 Saturday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 2 Wednesday. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. An evening of Celtic music, song, and dance. Includes Cape Breton and Scottish music by the MacNeals, a Detroit-area family band, and Irish music by an ensemble of Detroit-area musicians that includes fiddler and pianist Marty Somberg, flutist Leo McNamara, fiddler Mick Gavin, uillean piper Terence McKinney, guitarist Charles Wilkie, bouzouki player and vocalist Mike Gavin Jr., and Gaelic vocalist Dawn Hudek. Also, step dancer and harpist Colleen Burke, step dancer Paul Cusack, and North American champion step dancer Mike Belvitch. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning 2 weeks before the show) at SKR Pop and Rock & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Wisconsin. 8 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15. 764-0247.

FILMS

MTF. "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). See 25 Friday. Mich., 5 p.m. "Waking Ned Devine" (Kirk Jones, 1998). See 25 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

31 THURSDAY (New Year's Eve)

"Flying Fun": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Holiday Break Program. See 28 Monday. 1–4 p.m. 7th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. An alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring more than two dozen of the area's favorite entertainers performing around Depot Town and downtown Ypsilanti.

At Riverside Arts Center: comedian O. J. Anderson (6 & 7:30 p.m.), Opus Mime (8:30 & 9:45 p.m.), and R&B by Al Hill and the Love Butlers (9 p.m.–12:30 a.m.).

At the Seventh Day Adventist sanctuary: the Boychoir of Ann Arbor (6:30 & 7:30 p.m.), the guitar-flute duo Divertimente (8 p.m.), and madrigals by the Arbor Consort (9 & 10 p.m.).

At the Freight House: calypso and reggae by



The Grammy-nominated James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band heads a gala New Year's Eve jazz concert, Thurs., Dec. 31 (when else?), at the Power Center.

Nite Flight (6:30-8:30 p.m.) and rockabilly, blues, and more by George Bedard and the Kingpins (9

At St. Luke's Church: dulcimer player Charlene Berry (6, 7:30, & 9:30 p.m.), acid jazz by Fugue State (8:30 p.m.), the Jubilee Chamber Players (7 p.m.), kids' karaoke with Lovely the Clown (6:30 & 8:30 p.m.), Delta blues by Madcat and Kane (9, 10:15, & 11:30 p.m.), jazz saxophone and vocals by Paul Vornhagen (8:30–11:30 p.m.), and Wild Swan Theater's children's play Rainbow Crow (7:15

At First Presbyterian Church: contra dancing to British and American folk music by the Golden Griffon Stringtet (8 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), organist Bradley Smith (9 & 10:45 p.m.), and choral music by Variations (7, 8, & 9:30 p.m.).

At First Methodist Church: storyteller and singer

San Slomovits (6:30, 7:15, & 8 p.m.), members of the Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble (8:30–11:30 p.m.), and boogie-woogie pianist Marc "Mr. B" Braun (8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m.).

At Brown Chapel: singer-storyteller Tiana Marquez (7 & 8:30 p.m.) and others to be announced.

At the Ypsilanti District Library: children's singer-entertainer Sheila Ritter (6 & 7:30 p.m.) and stories and puppetry by the Kalamazoo-based Royal American Folklore Theater (6:30, 8, & 9:15 p.m.).

At Emmanuel Lutheran Church: dancer and storyteller Whitley Setrakian (7:30, 8:30, 9:30, & 10:30

10:30 p.m.) and folksingers Josh White Jr. and Ron Coden (8-11:30 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti Historical Museum: jazz duo of Matt Weiers & Aria DiSalvio (7-10 p.m.),

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Other special events include New Year's Eve services at Brown Chapel (10 p.m.) and St. Luke's (11:30 p.m.), and special exhibits at the **Ypsilanti** Historical Museum. Also, other performers and locations to be announced. 6 p.m.–12:30 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission badges \$12.50 in advantage of the control of Announced o vance at Busch's Valu Land or the Ypsilanti or Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureaus, \$15 at the door. Children ages 6–12, \$5 (children 5 & under, free). For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483–4444 or 995–7281.

*"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting service that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. The service is repeated at 10 a.m. on January 1. 7 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free.

7th Annual Gala New Year's Eve Concert: James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band. Retired WUOM radio personality Hazen Schumacher and his wife, Rusty, host a swinging evening of jazz and blues to welcome in the New Year with the Grammy-nomihated James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band led by U-M piano professor Dapogny. Now in its 7th year, the program (formerly sponsored by Michigan Radio). of option of the state of the s est CD, On the Road. After the performance, concerngoers can continue the festivities till midnight at a party at Zanzibar restaurant (\$5; reservations required). 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$25 in advance by sending a check payable to James Danaman Comment Services. Pogny Music, c/o Kellerman Entertainment Services, 947 Spring St., Ann Arbor 48103. To charge by phone, call 995-4010.

Jackie Flynn: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. The

winner of the prestigious San Francisco International Comedy Competition, this up-and-coming young comic is known for sarcastic observational humor with a slight edge. A frequent guest on Conan O'Brien and other TV shows, he also appeared in the recent hit film *There's Something About Mary*. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$22.50 (early show) & \$27.50 (late show, includes champagne & party favors).

"Titanic New Year's Eve Party": Arbor Brewing Company. Dinner and live music by the Ghettobillies, a local acoustic guitar trio that specializes in sweet & gritty country-rock with glee club harmonmies, a frat band lyrical sensibility, and occasional neopsychedelic yearnings, and The Original Brothers & Sisters of Love, a local band that plays an eclectic blend of the traditional bluegrass harmonies of the Louvin Brothers and the early rock 'n' roll style of the Everly Brothers with contemporary vorldbeat. 8 p.m.-2 a.m., Arbor Brewing Company 114 E. Washington. Tickets (prices to be announced) in advance only. 213–1393.

New Year's Bash: Cavern Club. Dancing to two bands: the **Starlight Drifters**, a local rockabilly and honky-tonk quartet led by indomitable local rocker Chris Casello, who plays electric and steel guitar, and featuring vocalist Billy Alton, and Nikki James & the Flamethrowers, a high-energy, hard-driving Detroit R&B band led by vocalist James. 8 p.m.-4 a.m., Cavern Club, 210 S. First St. \$50 includes buf-

The Ron Brooks Trio & Stephanie: Bird of Paradise. Ballads, blues, and standards by this local jazz ensemble led by Bird of Paradise co-owner Ron Brooks and featuring Stephanie Monier, a superb pop-jazz vocalist from Flint. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m., Bird Paradise, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$50 (couples, \$90) includes a light buffet, a champagne toast, horns, hats, & party favors, Reservations required.

Imperial Swing Orchestra: The Blind Pig. Prewar jazz, swing, and jump blues by this 12-piece local big band led by pianist Tom Loncaric and fronted by the playfully expressive vocals of Tracy Leigh Komarmy. 10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets (prices to be announced) in advance and at the door. 996-8555.

Jimmy Dillon Blues Band: Prism Productions. Gutbucket blues originals by this San Franciscobased quartet led by singer-guitarist Dillon. The price of admission includes a buffet dinner & champagne. A benefit for the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festival. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 10 p.m.), Amer' First Street Grill, 102 S. First at Huron. Tickets \$20 (\$50 includes dinner) in advance at SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge one, call (248) 645-6666; for information, call

*"Dude Productions": William Gene Patrick Window Gallery. See 5 Saturday. Tonight: "Two Guys Slowly Being Sliced in Half by a Giant Swinging Pendulum." 10 p.m.-midnight.

MTF. "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). See 25 Friday. Mich., 5 p.m. "Waking Ned Devine" (Kirk Jones, 1998). See 25 Friday. Mich., 7



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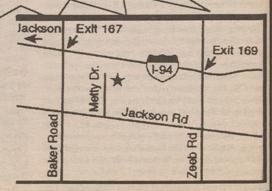
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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who will be playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Amer's First Street Grill 102 S. First 213-6000

This new downtown supper club, briefly known as the Screaming Dog, features live music on weekends, 10:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, no dancing. Also, Andrew Song plays solo piano, Wed. & Thurs. (5 p.m.–midnight) and Fri. & Sat. (5–10:30 p.m.). Dec. 4: Hideko Mills & Surrogate Earth. Local jazz fusion ensemble led by guitarist Mills.

Dec. 5: Mighty Joe Young. Chicago blues veteran. See Events. Dec. 11: Michael Hill's Blues Mob. Acclaimed young blues band from New York City. See Events. Dec. 12: Skeeter Brandon. Barroom blues band from North Carolis. Brandon. Barroom blues band from North Carolina. See Events. Dec. 18: Root Doctor. Blues & R&B band from Lansing. See Events. Dec. 19: The Kinsey Report. Urban blues band from Gary, Indiana. See Events. Dec. 26: No music. Dec. 31: Jimmy Dillon. Blues band from San Francisco. See Events.

Arbor Brewing Company

114 E. Washington 213–1393
This downtown brewpub features live music on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays. No cover, no dancing. Every Tues.: Live music to be announced. 9 p.m.-midnight. Every Wed.: Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble. Celtic and North American fiddle music by this local 8-piece acoustic band led by the rhythm section of fiddler and drummer Pam Meisel, bassist Todd Perkins, and wellknown local graphic artist Allan Reid on fiddle and banjo. 8:30–11 p.m. Dec. 3: Al Hill and the Love Butlers. Soulful swing, New Orleans–style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano and featuring saxman Eric Korte. 9:30 p.m.—midnight.

Dec. 6: Jim Roll. See review, p. 125. Local folkrock singer-songwriter who recently released his debut CD, Ready to Hang. Dec. 13: Ghettobillies. Local security miter trio that specializes in lies. Local acoustic guitar trio that specializes in sweet & gritty country-rock with glee club har-monies, a frat band lyrical sensibility, and occasional Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio. Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. Nardella's debut School-kids' CD, Daddy Rollin' Stone, still gets lots of Deroit-area radio airplay. Dec. 20: Jo Serrapere. Highly regarded local singer-songwriter known for her spare, haunting ballads and blues and her singures spare, haunting ballads are singures songs from sinewy, commanding vocals. She sings songs from her CD, My Blue Heaven. Dec. 27: Brian Lillie. See Gypsy Cafe. Dec. 31: "Titanic New Year's Eve Party." See Events. 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

The Ark 316 S. Main

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover (usually \$9-\$11), no dance floor, but for some shows space is cleared for dancing. Discounts (usually \$1) on cover for members (\$15/year, families lies, \$25/year). All shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Ticket sales: If a sellout is anticipated, advance tickets are sold and (occasionally) two shows are scheduled. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door only. Dec. 1: Mary Jane Lamond. Gaelic diva from Nova Scotia. See Events. Dec. 2 & 3: Arlo Guthrie. Veteran folk ger-songwriter. See Events. Dec. 4: Michael Cooney. Veteran folksinger. See Events. Dec. 5: The Nields. Very popular folk-rock quintet from Boston. See Events. Dec. 6: Balfa Toujours. Authentic Cajun band from Louisiana. See Events. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9: The Bobs. Self-styled "nu Wave" a cappella quartet from San Francisco. Dec. 10: Billy Bragg & the Blokes. Celebrated English folk-rocker. See Events. Dec. 11: Susan Werner. Acclaimed young singer-songwriter from Philadelphia. See Events. Dec. 12: Dee Careta. Carstensen. Pop-folk singer-songwriter from

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nightspots

Jim Roll **Austin on the Huron**

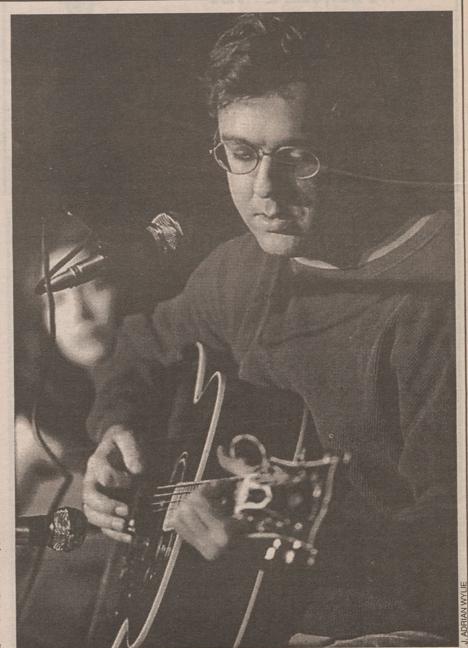
Local singer-songwriter Jim Roll's music seems easily explained: it's modern folkcountry in the footprints of the Jayhawks, Son Volt, and many more American bands made up of people who grew up listening to Gram Parsons or early Bob Dylan and decided to add the spark of rock 'n' roll to the country mix. Some stay closer to rock, but others, like Roll, wander off the path a bit and pull towards the likes of Guy Clark, Steve Earle, and the streets of Austin.

Jim Roll would be right at home among those Texas songwriters, and that would the end of the story, if not for a couple of things: his voice and his songs. Roll's voice, downhome without being corny, is Midwestern in a way that makes you feel good about being Midwestern yourself. He's not a powerfully original singer, but his voice does the job, and it's nice and warm.

Roll's knife-in-the-heart songs about heartbreak and old lovers don't break new ground, but they don't exactly fit the mold, either. The guy his songs are invariably about has been hurt-hurt badly, and then run over by a train and hurled over a cliff, down the mountainside, and into a fire. But, he keeps a smirk on his lips, and he's just too damn funny-and mean-to let it get to him. On an original like "Ready To Hang," Roll tells an old lover, "Your love was like barbed wire / Running through my hands." The song is loaded to the brim with pain, venom, and madness, an emotional territory Roll mines often and with great skill.

At the Gypsy, where he brought along ace guitarist Rollie Tussing III, Roll seemed like a folkie Woody Allen in bib overalls, a man of constant sorrow but with lots of faith in the resilience of the human spirit and a suitcase full of humor to make the pain go away. Jim Roll is at the Arbor Brewing Company, Sunday, December 6, and at the Gypsy Cafe, Saturday, December 19.

-Alan Goldsmith



New York City. See Events. Dec. 13: Over the Rhine. Artful rock 'n' roll quartet from Cincinnati. See Events. Dec. 18: Raisin Pickers. Old-time music by this Manchester quartet. See Events. Dec. 19: RFD Boys. Veteran local bluegrass trio. See Events. Dec. 27: George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown. Blues & rockabilly extravaganza featuring the all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor-bred roots-rock musicians. See Events. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 30: "Crossroads Ceili." An evening of Celtic music and dance. See Events. 7:30

Ashley's 338 S. State

This downtown restaurant features live music in its underground pub on Tuesdays, 10:30 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover, no dancing. Dec. 1: Randy Napoleon & Friends. Jazz standards and originations. nals, from bebop to modern styles, by a quartet led by this local guitarist. No music after December 1

Babs' Liberty Street Piano Bar 662-8757 112W. Liberty

This downtown lounge features live music Thursdays (8–11 p.m.) and weekends (9 p.m.-midnight). No cover, no dancing. Every Thurs. (except December 31): Doug Horn Trio. 40s & 50s swing and bebop by a jazz ensemble led by local alto saxophonist Horn. Dec. 4: Susan Chastain & James Danagay. Lay & non-tendents by the James Dapogny. Jazz & pop standards by the duo of vocalist Chastain and pianist Dapogny, a U-M

music professor renowned for his mastery of early jazz styles. Dec. 5: Harvey Reed. Solo jazz piano by this former Ann Arborite who now lives in Detroit. Dec. II: Susan Chastain & James Dapogny. See above. Dec. 12: Paul Perdue. This singer-pianist from Dundee performs classic. This singer-pianist from Dundee performs classic rock covers by the likes of Van Morrison, John Prine, Elton John, & Billy Joel. Dec. 18: Kate Brennan and Harvey Reed. Straight-ahead jazz by the Detroit-based duo of vocalist Brennan and pianist Reed. Dec. 19: Harvey Reed. See above. Dec. 26: Paul Perdue. See above. Dec. 31: Closed.

662-8310

Bird of Paradise 207 S. Ashley

Intimate jazz club co-owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music seven nights a week, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (Fri.-Mon.) & 8 p.m.-midnight (Tues.-Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), no dancing. **Every Fri.: E-Z Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. 5–8 p.m. Every Sun.: Paul Finkbeiner & Friends. Popular, high-energy jam session led by trumpeter Finkbeiner. No cover. Every Mon.: Bird of Paradise Orchestra. 14-piece ensemble organized by bassists Ron Brooks and Paul Keller to showcase original compositions and arrangements by musicians from southeastern Michigan. The varying lineup includes local and area jazz musicians.
The group has a Schoolkids' CD, Project X. Every Wed. & Thurs. (except December 24 & 31): Ron Brooks Trio. One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club co-owner Brooks is joined by pianist Rick Roe and drummer Pete Siers. Dec. 1: Explosion: Cerebral. Improvisational jazz in the vein of the Art Ensemble of Chicago and other AACM label bands. Members are saxophonist Matt Bauder, drummer Eric Roth, and bassist Zach Wallace. Dec. 4 & 5: Jeannine Miller & the Vincent Shandor Trio. This Detroit-area jazz vocalist, a U-M music school grad, performs jazz standards, ballads, & blues. She is backed by a trio led by pianist Shandor. Dec. 8: Funktelligence. Local funk-oriented jazz-rock band. Dec. 11 & 12: Sunny Wilkinson & Friends. This well-known straight-ahead jazz vocalist from L.A. performs bebop ballads and jazz standards. Backed by a trio led by pianist Ron Newman. Dec. 15: Explosion: Cerebral. See above. Dec. 18 & 19: Johnny O'Neal Trio. Full-bodied bluesand gospel-inflected jazz by an ensemble led by this veteran Detroit pianist and vocalist who currently lives in Atlanta. O'Neal has played with the likes of Milt Jackson, Art Blakey, and Wynton Marsalis. Dec. 22: Funktelligence. See above. Dec. 26: Tammy Rafferty. Straight-ahead jazz standards and ballads by this Toledo vocalist, who is backed tonight by the Ron Brooks Trio (see above). Dec. 29: To be announced. Dec. 31: Ron Brooks Trio & Stephanie. Straight-ahead jazz. See Events.

The Blind Pig 208 S. First St.

996-8555

This local music club features live music four or more nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and DJs (usual-



HOLIDAY Complete Acoustic Guitar Package from \$169.99 SPECIAL: Includes: Guitar, Gig Bag, Strap, Picks, Pitch Pipe, Video Tape

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662-1080







WHEN YOUR ANGER IS NOT JUST ANGER

More and more people are becoming aware of their anger. Sometimes this is experienced as a terrible burden. Sometimes it is experienced as energizing. You might hear someone say, "I am really angry." Another might say, "I am absolutely enraged." What is the difference? What

Anger is clear and energizing. It is an emotional response to an immediate situation. It motivates the angry person to take action, and leads to some resolution. In contrast, rage is an angry response to a past frustration which is restimulated in the present situation. Rage leads to the same old arguments. The date of the argument changes, but the content does not, nor does the behavior of the involved parties.

For example, you might have feelings about always being the one to clean the house, repair the car, or plan vacations. The angry person will be able to talk about the situation in such a way as to promote some change in the arrangements. The enraged person, on the other hand, will get so ught up in the rage as to become a prisoner of the feelings, unable to act on his or her own

If you find yourself being angry a lot, then you are not just angry, you are also enraged. Rage is not helpful. It interferes with productive loving, playing, and working. Resolving your rage and getting access to your anger is both liberating and empowering.

Lynne G. Tenbusch, PhD • Licensed Psychologist • (734) 973–3232





"The more you listen, the better we sound

NIGHTSPOTS continued

ly) on Wednesdays (10 p.m.-1:30 a.m.), & Sundays (8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.). If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed most Mondays. Cover, dancing. Every Sun. (except December 27): Swing-a-Billy. DJ Del Villareal spins swing, jump blues, and rockabilly records. Also, free swing & jitterbug dance lessons (8–9 p.m.). No cover. Every Tues.: "Showcase Night." With four different young local bands each week. Every Wed.: "Solar." Resident DJ Disco D and various guest DJs play house and techno records. Dec. 3: Derek
Trucks Band. Southern blues-rock band led by -year-old guitar prodigy Trucks. See Events Dec. 4: Maschina. Unconventional, almost Zap-pa-esque local jazz-funk quartet that features a lead trumpet that is often treated to sound like a variety of trumpet that is often treated to sound like a variety of other instruments. Opening acts are Papa Vegas, a pop-rock band from Grand Rapids that recently signed with RCA, and Paper Plate, a pop-rock band from Chicago. Dec. 5: Solid Frog. Highly regarded alternative rock 'n' roll band from Saline. Opening acts are Slide off Saturn, a popular local quintet that plays upbeat, percussive postpunk rock 'n' roll originals, and **Sugar Pill**, a local duo that plays pop-rock originals. **Dec. 10: Pro**peller. Local band featuring former members of Data Cadet and Melk that plays noisy, rhythmic postpunk rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are Kuz, a local avant-jazz trio, and The Triggers, a talented, inventive local soul-oriented, low-fi garage-pop band. Dec. 11: Knee Deep Shag. Blues-based band. Dec. 11: Knee Deep Shag. Blues-based rock 'n' roll band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is Sugar Buzz, a funk-rock band from Findlay, Ohio. Dec. 12: Swing Syndicate. Classic swing by this local big band. Dec. 17: Reverend Right Time. Funk sextet from Flint and Saginaw. Opening acts are The First Cuzins of Funk, a 70s-style funk band from northerm Miching. gan, and Heavy Weather, a groove-oriented funk-rock sexet from Cincinnati. Dec. 18: Taproot. Local progressive metal band. Opening acts are El Topo, an inventive postpunk funk-metal the Prisoners, and Powerface, a heavy metal band from Lansing. Dec. 19: Funktelligence. See Bird of Paradise. Opening act is Freebass, a funk band from Cincinnati formerly known as Shag. Dec. 26: Big Dave & the Ultrasonics. See Cavern Club. Dec. 27: The Penthouse Playboys. Straight-up swing sextet from Chicago. Preceded by swing dance lessons (7–8 p.m.) and a set by Swing-a-Billy DJ Del Villareal (8–9 p.m.). **Dec.**31: Imperial Swing Orchestra. New Year's Rye Party San Broads

Blue Nile

221 E. Washington 998-4746 Restaurant with live jazz Fridays (6:30–10 p.m.) & Saturdays (6–10 p.m.). No cover, no dancing. Every Fri. & Sat.: Doug Horn Jazz Trio. Jazz ensemble led by alto saxophonist Horn, who also plays flute.

Cafe Zola

112 W. Washington This downtown cafe features live music and other programming every Friday 9–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 4: Bittersweet.** Jazz standards by the duo of vocalist Debbie Fogell and guitarist Gary Allen. Dec. 11: Hope Orchestra. Vibrant, richly textured rock 'n' roll originals by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Asta. Tonight the lebrates the release of its CD, Gift. Dec. 18: Alberto Rojo. Argentinean and other South

Cavern Club 210 S. First

American music by this local guitarist.

This new downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the Antiques Market Place, features live music Wednesdays through Saturdays, and occasional other days, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, happy-hour bands (no cover), Fridays & Saturdays, 6:30-9 p.m. \$5 cover, dancing. s 21 & older admitted. Every Fri.: Drivin' Sideways. Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The guiding presence of the band's new incarnation seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist Chris

Casello, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark New

332-9900

bound, and pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle. Guitarist George Bedard sits in on guitar when Casello is out of town with his other band, the Starlight Drifters. 6–9 p.m. Dec. 2: Johnnie Bassett and the Blues Insurgents. Detroit blues band led by singer-guitarist Bassett. Dec. 3: Imperial Swing Orchestra. Prewar jazz, swing, and jump blues by this 12-piece local big band led by pianist Tom Loncaric and fronted by the playfully expressive vocals of Tracy Leigh Komarmy. Dec. 4: George Bedard & the Kingpins. Super-fine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar ge-nius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band recently released Hip Deep, the follow-up to its award-winning 1992 debut, Upside. Dec. 5: Closed. Dec. 9: All-Star Rhythm & Bluez Revue. Detroit R&B and blues band led by Mudpuppy guitarist Mark Pasman that features a new lineup for each show. Tonight the band includes Chisel Brothers drummer Ron Pangborn and two members of GRR, bassist Gary Rasmussen and guitarist Jody Raffoul. Dec. 10: Big Dave and the Ultrasonics. Highpowered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock by this popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele. The band recently signed with Burnside Records in Portland, Oregon. Dec. 11: Starlight Drifters. Rockabilly and honky-tonk originals and covers by this local quartet led by in-domitable local rocker Chris Casello, who plays electric and steel guitar. With vocalist Billy Alton, bassist Rudy Varner, acoustic guitarist Mike Thompson, and drummer Mark Gray. The band has recently released its debut CD. Dec. 12: Closed. Dec. 16: Dawn Campbell & Blue Fusion. Traverse City blues band led by vocalist Campbell, a registered nurse by day whose passionate, take-no-prisoners vocals have provoked comparisons to Janis Joplin and Joe Cocker. Dec. 17: Twistin' Tarantulas. Detroit rockabilly band. Dec. 18: Lady Sunshine & the X Band. Local gospelflavored blues band led by singer Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. Dec. 19: (6:30-9 p.m.): The BlueRays. Local blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan. Dec. 19: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players. Detroit blues band led by Joce'-lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." Her recently released debut CD, Bitch a da Blues, features originals that range from the racy "Sweet Potato Pie" to the poignant "Chase Away the Blues," along with covers of "Walking the Dog," "Mustang Sally," and the of "Walking the Dog," "Mustaing Sally," and the Hayes & Porter standard, "When Something Is Wrong with My Baby." Dec. 23-26: Closed. Dec. 30: Al Hill & the Love Butlers. See Arbor Brewing. Dec. 31: "New Year's Bash." With the Starlight Drifters and Nikki James & the Flamethrowers. See Events

C

12:

12

214

City Limits 2900 Jackson Rd.

665-4444

Lounge at the Clarion Hotel. Dance bands on weekends, jam sessions on Wednesdays, and a DJ on Thursdays. 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. Every Thurs.: Latin Night. A DJ spins Latin dance records. Every Fri. & Sat.: A DJ spins Top 40 dance records.

Cross Street Station

511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti 485-5050 Live dance bands Thursdays through Saturdays, DJs on Sundays and Tuesdays, and open mike on Wednesdays. Dancing, cover. Every Sun.: Super Mod Ska Explosion. With "Sound Scientist" Chuck Damage. Ages 18 & older admitted. No cover. Every Mon.: Cross Street Jazz Band. Jazz ensemble of varying membership.
Every Tues.: Retro Dance Party. DJ Speed
E. Smith plays 70s & 80s dance music. Every
Wed.: Super Sonic Soul Party. With
"Sound Scientist" Chuck Damage. Dec. 3: Daddy Longlegs. East Lansing band that plays ska and reggae-flavored rock 'n' roll originals. Dec. 4: Swing Syndicate. See Blind Pig. Dec. 5: Electric Boogaloo. Hippie rock band from Ypsilanti. Dec. 10: Redline. Alternative rock 'n' roll band from Ypsilanti. Dec. 11: Big Dave & the Ultrasonics. See Cavern Club. Dec. 12: Heavy Weather. See Blind Pig. Dec. 17: To be announced. Dec. 18: Baked Potato. Local jam-oriented rock 'n' roll band that plays originals and unusual covers. Opening act is Fountainhead. Dec. 19: Nick Strange and the Bare Nakeds. Popular local blues & reggae dance band. Dec. 26: To be announced. Dec. 31: FunktelCrow Bar

309 S. Main 668-0111 This downtown club features live pianists, Thurs.—Sat., 9 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover, no dancing. Every Thurs.—Sat. (except December 24–26): "Dueling Pianos." A wide range of popular standards and pop hits by singer-pianist Noel Leamon and an assortment of other singer-pianists to be announced. announced.

Crush! Bar

311 S. Main 665-8484 This new club, located in the former Full Moon, features DJs, Thurs.—Sat. Cover (after 10 p.m.), dancing on 2 different dance floors. Ages 21 & older admitted. Every Thurs.—Sat. (except December 24–26): DJs play retro, swing, funk, and hip-hop dance music. Specific schedules to be announced.

Del Rio

122 W. Washington 761-2530 day, 5:30–9 p.m. Dec. 6: Rick Burgess Quartet, Jazz ensemble led by pianist Burgess and featuring alto saxophonist Vincent York. Dec. 13: Herrold/Gordon Small Band. Local Latin and swing jazz sextet led by bassist Edie Herrold and guitarist Neil Gordon. Dec. 20: Rick Burgess Quartet. See above. Dec. 27: Randy Napoleon Quartet. See Leonardo's.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211 Restaurant with live jazz Monday through Saturday. No cover, no dancing. Every Mon. & Thurs. No cover, no dancing. Every Mon. & Thurs. (8-10 p.m.): Rick Burgess. Solo piano. Every Tues. (8-10 p.m.): Rick Roe. Solo piano. Every Wed. (8-10 p.m.): David Froseth. Solo piano. Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio. Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, drummer Robert Warren, and a bassist to be announced.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374 This Ypsilanti tavern feature DJs on Mondays & Wednesdays and dance bands on weekends, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Thursdays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and Sundays, 4-8 p.m. Dancing, no cover.

Every Mon. & Wed.: Big M and DJ Small spin modern rock dance records. Dec. 4, 5, 11, & 12:
Toxic Country. Country & classic rock. Dec. 18, 19, & 26: Another Round. 50s, 60s, & contemporary rock 'n' roll by this veteran local out-fit formerly known as the Billy Band. **Dec. 31:** To

Espresso Royale Caffe 214 S. Main

668-1838 The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Wednesdays (8-10 p.m.), Fridays (9-11 p.m.), & Saturdays (8-10 p.m.). Dec. 4: Five Guys Named Moe. An eclectic mix of styles on the this local accounts swing enstyles and genres by this local acoustic swing ensemble. Members are vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Myron Grant, bassist Glenn Bering, fiddler Mary Seelhorst, drummer Eric Nyhuis, and guitarist Jake Reichbart. Dec. 5: Ben Lempert. Jazz landards by this local trio led by guitarist Lempert. Dec. 11: Bishr Hijazi. Traditional Arabic music on the oud and flamenco on the guitar. See Events.

Dec. 12: Julie Genevis. This local pop songstress performs material from her new CD, Wy att's Touch. Dec. 18: Ginka Ortega. Spanish Dec. 26: Dave Boutette. See Sweetwaters.

Fifth Avenue Cafe

301 E. Liberty
This downtown cafe features live acoustic music on
Saturd.

Acceptional Fridays, 8–10 p.m. No Saturdays and occasional Fridays, 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. No music in December.

Gandy Dancer

401 Depot Restaurant with live piano every night. No cover, no dancing. Every Sun. (10 a.m.-2 p.m.): Charles Gabriel Jazz Trio. Vintage New Orleans jazz by a Detroit trio led by singer-bassist (and New Orleans native) Gabriel. Every Sun. (3:30-9 p.m.): Alice Rhodes. Solo piano. Every Mon.-Wed. (6-11 p.m.): Tim Howley. This local pianist plays a variety of popular music and takes requests. Every Thurs. (6-9 p.m.), Fri. (5:30-9 p.m.), & Sat. (6 p.m.-midnight): Carl Alexius. Veteran local jazz pianist who takes requests for oldies.

The Gypsy Cafe 214 N. Fourth Ave.

994-3940 This coffeehouse features an eclectic mix of live semiacoustic music, with occasional poetry readings, performance art, and even some comedy in its back room on weekends and some other nights, 9:30 p.m.-midnight. Also, tarot readings on weekends (8:30 p.m.-2 a.m.). Cover (weekends only), no dancing, Every Tues.: "Salaciously Intellectuing. Every Tues.: "Salactously interfects al." All invited to read their poetry and prose. Also, featured poetry readings and a hip-hop DJ. 8 p.m. Dec. 2: "Wide Open Mike." All musicians, and other performers invited. (Signature of the performers invited. poets, comics, and other performers invited. (Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m.) 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 4: Chris** Buhalis. Highly regarded local folk-country singer-songwriter with a rich, warm voice who re-cently released his debut CD, Kenai Dreams. Opening act is Mary MacLeod, a local singer-song-writer who writes dryly humorous country songs. Dec. 5: Brian Lillie & the Squirrel Mountain Orchestra. Rock and folk originals by this ensemble led by guitarist Lillie, a popular local singer-songwriter who performs material from his acclaimed 1995 CD, Waking Up in Traffic, and from his new CD, Rowboats. Dec. 11: Jo Serrapere. See Arbor Brewing Company. Tonight Serrapere performs with her band, The Hot Tail Section. Dec. 12: Rollie Tussing III. Blues classics and blues-based originals by this local vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, who plays a National steel guitar. Tonight he is joined by local harmonica wizard Madcat Ruth and other friends to celebrate the release of his new CD, Blow Whistle, Blow. Dec. 16: "Wide Open Mike." See above. 8-10 p.m. Dec. 18: The Original Brothers & Sisters of Love. Local band that plays an eclectic blend of the traditional bluegrass harmonies of the Louvin Brothers and the early rock 'n' roll style of the Everly Brothers with contemporary worldbeat. Members are Timothy and James Monger, a singersongwriter duo from Brighton, and fiddler Mary Madill. Dec. 19: Jim Roll. See review, p. 125. See Arbor Brewing. Opening act is the Maryjanes, a folk-rock quintet from Indiana fronted by three female vocalists, two of whom play fiddle. Dec. 26: Tim Ries. Two sets by this tenor and soprano jazz saxophonist, a Tecumseh native cur-rently living in New York City, who records for the Criss Cross label. He is accompanied by two stars of the area jazz scene, drummer Gerald Cleaver and bassist Rodney Whitaker. 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

The Habitat

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636 Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6-9 p.m.) by Adam Riccinto (Tues.-Fri.) and Tom Knapp (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover. Every Mon.: "Swank Life." DJ Al Velour spins 50s & 60s lounge music. Period attire encouraged. 4 p.m.-mid-night. Dec. I-12: Chateau. Top 40 dance band. Dec. 15–19: Al Hill & the Love Butlers. See Arbor Brewing. Dec. 22, 23, 26, & 29–31: Kaleidoscope. Top 40 dance band.

The Heidelberg 215 N. Main

663-7758 This rock 'n' roll club on the top floor of the Heidelberg Restaurant features DJs Wed.-Fri. (9 p.m.-1:30 a.m.) and live dance bands on Saturdays (10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.) and Sundays (7-9:30 p.m.). Cover, dancing. Also, occasional live music in the basement Rathskeller (no cover), 8 p.m. until midnight or later on Fridays, 9 p.m. until midnight or later on Satur-days. Ages 21 & older admitted unless otherwise days. Ages 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. Every Sun. (except December 27): II-V-I Orchestra. Late-30s swing and 40s R&B. See Events. 7-9:30 p.m. Every Fri. (except December 25): Latino Night. DJ Carlos plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin Dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9:30-10:30 p.m. Dec. 5: To be announced. Dec. 12: Deep Space 6. Local Grateful Dead cover back 'n' roll band. tion. Detroit-area alternative rock 'n' roll band. Opening act is **Blammo**, a local sextet that plays a blend of wickedly humorous, socially observant originals and choice punk covers by the likes of Patti Smith, the Dead Kennedys, X, and the Ramones. Dec. 26: Closed. Dec. 31: Latino Night. See

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764-7544 Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. No dancing, no cover. Dec. 3: U-M Jazz Studies Program. Live jazz standards and originals by U-M music students, directed by U-M jazz studies director Ed Sarath. Weekly featured soloists to be announced. Dec. 4: "And the Winner Is." Performance by the winner of Leonardo's November open mike competition. 9–11 p.m. **Dec. 7: Randy Napoleon Quartet.** Jazz standards and original competitions. hals, from bebop to modern styles, by a quartet led by this local guitarist. With vocalist Sachal Vasandani, drummer Aaron Siegel, and bassist Zack Wallace. 8–10 p.m. Dec. 10: U-M Jazz Studies Program. See above.

Mudd House

317W. Cross St., Ypsilanti 482–8020
This coffeehouse near the EMU campus features occasional live music. No cover, no dancing. Every
Thurs.: Open Mike. All poets and musicians in-

The Nectarine

510 E. Liberty 994–5436
This popular local New York-style dance club fea-994-5436 Inis popular local New York—style dance club features DJs five nights a week and live music on one Monday each month, 9 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Every Fri.: Boys' Night Out. With DJ Roger LeLievre. Every Sat.: 70s & 80s Dance Party. With DJ Roger LeLievre. Every Tues.:
Boys' Night Out. See above. Every Wed.:
Disco Dance Party. With DJ Groove Boy.
Every Thurs.: EuroBeat Dance Party. European-style house, techno, and alternative dance music with DJ Roger LeLievre.

996-2747

Rick's American Cafe 611 Church

This campus-area club features DJs, Mon.-Thurs., and live music on weekends, 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover (except Tuesdays). Every Mon. & Wed. (except December 10): "Modern Dance Party." With DJ John King. Every Tues.: That's My Mama. Classic rock 'n' roll cover band. Every Thurs. (except December 24 & 31): A.K. on the Ones & Twos. DI Alex plays cutting edge, high paragraphs. Twos. DJ Alex plays cutting-edge, high-energy contemporary dance music. Dec. 2: Soulstice. College rock cover band from East Lansing. Between sets, DJ John King spins dance records. **Dec.**4: The Foster Kids. College pop originals and covers by this Lansing band led by singer-guitarist Tommy Foster. Dec. 5: LTO. Rock 'n' roll originals and covers by this ensemble of U-M business school students. **Dec. 10: Jump, Little Children.** Alternative rock 'n' roll with strong Irish and folkie flavors by this Charleston, South Carolina, band that recently released its debut Atlantic CD, Magazine. Dec. 11: Superdot. Ska-flavored swing band from Detroit. Dec. 12: Fat Amy. College pop band from East Lansing led by singer-songwriter Bobby Guiney. Dec. 16: Soulstice: See above. Dec. 18: Jazodity. 7-piece groove-oriented act plazz band that includes former members of the Bucket. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its debut CD, In the Mix. Opening act is Masala, a groove-oriented jump blues and swing band. Dec. 19: The Lash. Very popular band from Lansing that plays traditional Irish music, Pogues covers, and drinking songs. Dec. 26: Contact Jack. College rock covers and originals by this popular band fronted by two female vocalists. Dec. 31: To be announced.

Sweetwaters Cafe 107 S. Ann Arbor St.

Live music Saturdays and/or occasional Fridays, 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Dec. 5: Dave Boutette. A former Junk Monkeys guitarist, this local folk-rock singer-songwriter performs covers and originals. Dec. 11: Robert Godsey. Folk, country, jazz standards, and some rock 'n' roll by this singer-guitarist. Dec. 19: David Mosher. An eclectic mix of acoustic originals by this popular local singer-songwriter and virtuoso guitarist who recently released his debut solo CD, Sycamore Tree.

Dec. 26: No music.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320 This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music five nights a week and a DJ on Thursdays, usually 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sundays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged. Hosted by Chris Buhalis, a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Every Tues.: "John-

ny Reed & the Nothing But the Blues Jam." Hosted by Toledo blues harpist Johnny Reed. All bands and musicians invited. Every Wed.: Open Mike. Hosted by The Martindales, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. Every Thurs. (except December 24 & 31): Swing Night. With WCBN rockabilly DJ Del Villareal. Dec. 4: BlueRays. Local blues band Witch Doctors. Blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan. Dec. 5: The Witch Doctors. Blues band led by WEMU DJ Thayrone. Dec. 11 & 12: George Bedard & the Kingpins. See Cavern Club. Dec. 18: Terraplanes. Local blues-rock band by singer-raplanes. Local blues-rock band by singer-raplanes. guitarist Jerry Mack, with guitarist Loren Hsieh, keyboardist Rik Richardson, bassist John Allesee, harmonica player Eric Pinaud, and drummer Will Simmons. Dec. 19 & 26: To be announced. Dec. 31: Kristin Sayer & the MVPs. Blues, bluesrock, and funky R&B by this all-female band from Wayne led by singer-guitarist Sayer.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-4470 This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features DJs on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays (9 p.m.-1 a.m.) and dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (9:30 a.m.) and dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (9:30 p.m.—1:30 a.m.). Also, karaoke on Tuesdays & Trivia Night on Wednesdays. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. Every Sun.: Blues Jam. All blues musicians invited. Hosted by Liberty Street Blues Project guitarist Danny Pratt. 8 p.m.—midnight. Every Mon.: Retro Dance Party. With a DJ to be announced. Every Thurs. (except December 24 & 31): Motor City Sheiks. Detroit jump blues band. Dec. 4 & 5: Fully Loaded. Local blues & blues-rock band. Dec. 11 & 12: The Witch Doctors. See Tap Room. Dec. 18 & 19: The Blues Life. Local Room. Dec. 18 & 19: The Blues Life. Local blues band. Dec. 23: Rob Moses. Christmas carol sing-along with this local pianist. 7–10 p.m. Dec. 31: All-Star Music Revue. Blues & classic rock by this local ensemble.

Theo-Doors

705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 485–6720
This EMU campus—area restaurant turns into a dance club after 10 p.m. Cover, dancing. Every Mon. & Thurs.: Modern & Retro. DJs spin Top 40 dance tunes. Every Tues.: Retro & Disco. DJs spin Top 40 dance tunes. Every Wed.: Karaoke and Open Mike Night. Every Fri.: Live bands to be announced. Every Sat.: "Dancing All Night Long." With a DJ to be announced. All acoustic performers invited. Dec. 4: South Normal. Anthemic rock 'n' roll originals by this popular Chelsea quintet known for its 485-6720 nals by this popular Chelsea quintet known for its tight arrangements, imaginatively varied rhythms, garage-band versatility, and slacker attitude. Opening act to be announced. **Dec. 5: Shindig.** Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll band. Opening act to be announced. Theo's is closed from December 7 until

Underground 911 North University 763–4652 This all-ages club in the Michigan League basement

finis all-ages club in the Michigan League basement features occasional live music, 8–10 p.m. No cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. Dec. 4: "Folk/Acoustic Singer-Songwriter Open Mike Extravaganza." Open mike hosted by local folk-rock singer-songwriter Lisa Hunter, who also performs her own songs. Sign-up begins at 7 p.m. Last music program until January.



Gaelic diva Mary Jane Lamond, at the Ark, Dec. 1.

PERSONALS

Personals Key

A=Asian B=Black C=Christian Z=Letters

D=Divorced

LTR=Long Term Relationship

F=Female G=Gay

ND=Nondrinker NS=Nonsmoker T=Phone Calls

H=Hispanic H/WP=Height &

P=Professional

Weight Proportionate

S=Single ISO=In Search Of W=White

J=Jewish

Women Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL (900) 370-2072

18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min. SWF, 24, looking for all-American guy.

Tall, blonde, blue-eyed, attractive, SWPF, 31, desires tall, SWPM, 31–38, with happy countenance and playful smile. Imagination, integrity, and ability to laugh often required. Myriad interests desired including athletics, the arts, outdoor pursuits, and traveling to interesting locales. Seeking an educated, down-to-earth, three-dimensional-type guy, who also loves to explore and have fun. Nonsmoker, light drinker. ₩6657#

Shall we dance? SWPF, 40, 5'10", poised, trim seeks SWPM, 30–50, 6'1"+, who wants to dance (or is willing to learn) ballroom, swing, and Latin styles for winter fun and exercise. Possible LTR? Charming personality essential; dry palms appreciated! #6661₺

DWF seeking LTR with S/DWM, 45+. Intelligent, educated, healthy, fit, NS, gourmet cook, loves theater, classical and

Attractive and sensitive, DWPF, European born, artistic, financially comfortable, looking for best friend. He should be worldly, generous, and warmhearted, 45-50+, and ready to share life's plea-

The one I seek is seeking me. I am a DWPF, 50ish, seeking a kind, considerate, compassionate, generous, widowed or DWPM with a sense of humor and a zest for life. ☎6666₺

Pretty entrepreneur, 52, successful, giving, loving, lots of fun, down-to-earth. ISO sincere, successful Caucasian gentleman, 45-70, to be my soulmate. **☎**6674₺ Caring, classy, affectionate, attractive, SWF, 31, brown hair and brown eyes. Seeks humorous, affectionate gentleman, 28-48, for honest, monogamous relationship. ☎6675₺

Beautiful, degreed, thin, blue eyes, long naturally curly dark blonde hair, 43, 5'7", into self-growth, meditation, nature, yoga, natural health, laughing, speaking truth, and life. I'm spunky, unique, loving. ISC soul connection, SWM, 38-48, NS 〒6676本

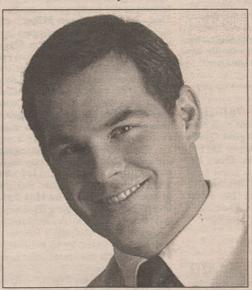
SPF, 39. Unitarian, likes good books, vintage films, can swing dance a little. Seeks nice SPM for friendship, possible

SWPF, 35, 5'4", 110 lbs., fit, active, happy with life and career but missing one genuinely kind, optimistic, SWPM to share life with. **☎**6695₺

Me? Big smile, petite, SAPF, 49, academic. You? A good companion who loves animals, music, movies, travel, plays, outdoors, good food, sports, banter, laughter, puns, and fun. NS/ND professional, welleducated, well-read, and honest. \$\pi\cdot 69625\$ Attractive, fit, degreed, SWF, 45, slender, brunette, 57", NS. Enjoys nature, films, snorkeling, travel, blues/rock music. Seeks compatible SM, 38-50. \$\pi\6698\pm\s

Soulful classical musician, avid gardener, woodburning stove enthusiast, traveler to Paris and beyond. SWPF, 40s, attractive, thin, trim, and petite mother of one. Seeks decent, secure, healthy, good-humored gentleman (40–50) for fun dates, friendship, and perhaps romance. \$\pi 6699 \(\sigma \)

HE'S SMART, SUCCESSFUL, AND SINGLE



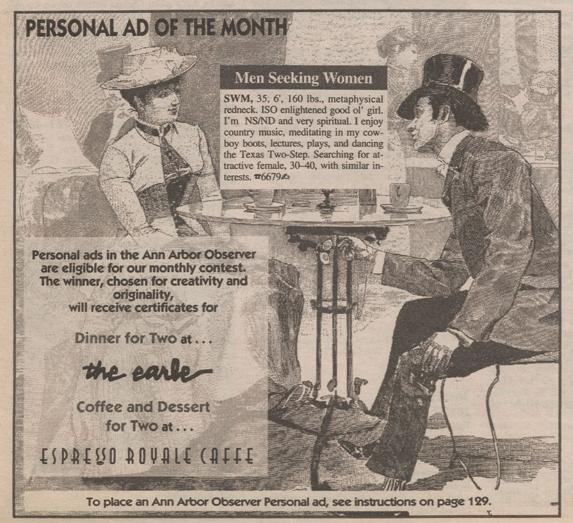
AND HE'S READING THE PERSONALS ON-LINE NOW.

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> To place your FREE Observer Personals ad, See instructions on facing page. www.arborweb.com

Ann Arbor Observer

To respond to a Personal Ad by phone call 1-900-370-2072.



Hi, I'm 41 years young. I love to meditate, do yoga, enjoy nature, travel, art, music, and people! I'm looking for someone who has a great sense of humor, is kind, spiritual, enjoys spontaneity, is intelligent, and loves life! ☎6680₺

Will date for laughs. DWPF, young 42, NS, and slim. Looking for a funny, smart, playful, and unpretentious S/DWPM for merriment and adventure, with side trips to friendship and small towns in Italy. Do you have offbeat and eclectic interests (you liked Life is Beautiful and Romeo is Bleeding but didn't necessarily catch Independence Day)? Do you also like the outdoors (hiking, canoeing, camping)? If so, let's get together for a cup of coffee or a glass of wine. 26702

Attractive, SWPF, 30, 5'8", NS. Seeking the company of an educated, honest, fun, SWPM, 28-35, NS, who enjoys books, music, films, the outdoors, animals, and sports. ☎6703₺

Very attractive, outgoing, degreed, genuine, SWPF, 32, 5'6", 120 lbs., green eyes, who loves to laugh. ISO LTR with a strong, good-looking, sincere, financially secure, fit, SWPM, 28-39, who has a great sense of humor, loves animals, en-joys live music, various sports, dining out, travel, and the outdoors. \$\pi6704\epsilon\$

Attractive, SWJF, 28, enjoys movies, cooking, reading, jogging, NPR, and great communication. Looking for funloving, spirited M, 25–35, who lives by his own rules and is kind, patient, and intelligent. ☎6705₺

DWF, 35, enjoys cooking, music, talking, holding hands, rubbing noses, eyelash kisses, and little presents . . . for me! Would love to hang out and have fun with a M, 30–40. I want to feel butterflies in my stomach. ☎6690₺

Shy, caring, sensitive, SWF, 40, ISO S/DWM, 40-45, 6'+, NS, occasional drinker, for dining, movies, walks, etc. **≖**6668€

Petite, slim, attractive, confident, DWPF, NS, who enjoys the romance of life seeks open-minded, articulate, honest, S/DWPM. NS, 45-55, to set sail for a new adventure. ☎6700四

Winter is long and cold. This nonhiber-nating, attractive, nature-loving, DF, 45, fit, creative, spiritual seeks warm com-panionship, spirited conversation, laugh-

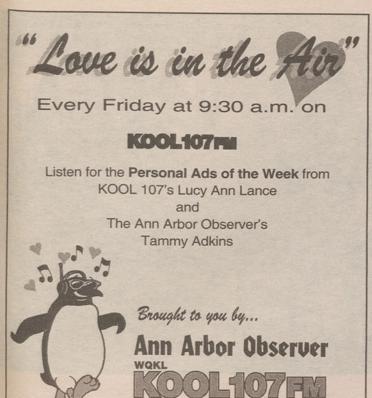
Hello, is there anyone out there? I am an intelligent, pretty, blonde, German woman and a mum of one. I am 38 years old, fit, and humorous. I love to change jeans and boots to skirts and pumps, and I enjoy the outdoors as well as visits to the theater, museum, and more. I love riding my bike alone but I'd prefer having good talk and laughter with someone while enjoying nature. If you are smart, tall, goodlooking, and know what a good joke is, give me a call. \$\pi 6664 \mathre{\math

Vegetable eating, garden growing, songwriting, guitar strumming, oboe playing, dog walking, cat spoiling, heart bleeding, theatergoing, Saab driving, Ann Arbor loving, software evaluating, artsy babe in her 40s seeks self-assured, sensitive man (40s, 50s) with good sense of humor, past his midlife crisis, who dislikes walking in the rain as much as I do. Letters, please.

Men Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL (900) 370-2072 18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.

PERSONALS



Passionate, attractive, fun, SWPM, 35, 5'9", 155 lbs., health-conscious, NS. Builder/developer. Enjoys outdoors, skiing, volleyball, dining, travel, and adventure. Compatible with warmhearted real

etc.

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DWM, 47, PhD, 5'9", 150 lbs. Researcher and farmer in environment, ecology, agri-culture. ISO woman scientist to share rural life, foreign travels, romance. ☎6281₺

Ludicrous but lovable, DWM, 59, PhD, novelist, seeks highly educated female, 45–55, for companionship or LTR.

RESPOND.. To Respond to a Personal Ad To Respond to a Personal Ad by Mail by Phone Call Responses are forwarded for \$3 per letter. Put each for \$3 per letter. Put each for \$5 per letter in its own envelope with the box number lope with the box number and sufficient first-class and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Postage on the front. Do not put your refurn Do not put your individual envelopes. Mail all dual envelopes. Mail all responses in a larger envelope; include a check for lope; include a check for lope; include a check for spayable to: 1-900-370-2072 Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you, or you can browse ads by category. With one call, you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call anytime, 24 hours a day. Voice greetings are only valid for the month they appear in print. Ann Arbor Observer 201 Catherine Ann Arbor, MI 48104 You must be 18 or older Touch-Tone phones only \$1.95 a minute

SWPM, 33, attractive, international relations PhD, friendly, philosophical, athletic and physically fit, likes travel, tennis, and skiing. ISO SWF, attractive, strong-mind-liked and decread with similar international relationships in the strong and decread with similar international relationships in the strong and decread with similar international relationships in the strong and decread with similar international relationships in the strong and the st ed, kind, and degreed with similar interests. \$6660@

Warm, caring, fun-loving, DWM, 48, with good sense of humor. Likes to talk, go for walks, and movies at the Michigan Theater. ISO liberal, S/DF, 40s-early 50s, race open. A good heart is worth far more than fantastic looks. \$\pi 6663 \square\$

SJPM, 33, 5'6", 140 lbs., lawyer-turned-chemical dependency counselor/clinic director. Attractive, soulful, spiritual, active, grounded and seeking SPF, 30-40, for friendship, romance/LTR. \$\frac{1}{2}\$6672\$

SWPM, 30s, European, handsome, athletic, open, honest, different, funny, learning Farsi. ISO Persian F, 20s-30s, for crosscultural exchange, exploring AA, friendship, possible LTR. ☎6678₺

SWM, 35, 6', 160 lbs., metaphysical redneck. ISO enlightened good ol' girl. I'm NS/ND and very spiritual. I enjoy country music, meditating in my cowboy boots, lectures, plays, and dancing the Texas Two-Step. Searching for attractive female, 30–40, with similar interests. \$\frac{1}{2}\$6679\$

SWM with herpes, 34, 6'1", slim, handsome. I am a very caring and kind person. I seek a woman with herpes who will understand and accept me. ≈6687₺

Good-looking, sincere, educated, **DWPM**, 42, 5'8", 150 lbs., brown eyes, black hair, enjoys outdoors, dancing, movies, fine dining, and romance. Seeks a petite, attraction tive, S/DWF with similar interests for LTR. ☎6686₺

Kind, considerate, strong, down-to-earth M, 46, 6'1", 190 lbs., looking for nice, attractive woman. I have many interests ranging from bookish (comparative religion, philosophy, communication, etc.) to flat out adventure in foreign countries. Coffee sometime? 26503 \$\infty\$

Fine wine. I would like to meet an openminded, fun-loving, irreverent, attractive woman, 35–50, to celebrate life with! All details upon request. \$\pi6315\pi\$

SWM, fit, slim, intelligent, educated, honest, accommodating. Interests: books, movies, music, travel. ISO similar SWF, intelligent, compatible, attractive, late 30s-50, ₹6646&

Glasnost. DWPM, 45, seeks slim, educated, attractive Russian lady for serious relationship. =6688₺

Only thing missing is you! Handsome, SJPM, 37, tall, athletic, fit, and romantic seeks attractive, slender, educated, SWF, 27–36, with sense of humor, warm heart, and spirit of adventure. If you fit the bill, this M.D. wants you. \$\pi 6692\mathscr{1}\$

DWPM ISO DWPF, 50-60, to share the ater, art, music, travel, I'm trim, nice appearance, NS, liberal. Letter preferred. 26693

The perfect relationship consists of friendship, honesty, trust, communication, romance, passion, adventure. Hopelessly romantic, DWM, 40s, too many interests to list. ISO attractive, SWF who appreciates lots of attention to share life with.

Strong, sensitive, degreed, fit, and hand-some BPM, 56, 6', 190 lbs., devours hugs, ballroom dancing, yoga, nature, and the arts. Meditates or laughs deeply, seeks beauty everywhere. ISO best friend, any race, petite or average, 40-58, to share the sunlight. ☎6650₺

Ten acres, wooded with garden, 2 big dogs (lovable), mountain biker/skier (also lovable). Good-looking, nicely framed, talented M, 41, has much to share with spiritually/artistically inclined woman who loves gardening, food, music, animals. You must like apples. \$\pi6641 \nneq 1\$
41-year-old SWPM, who is educated, cre-

ative, funny, financially secure, and not short on looks seeks S/DWF for LTR. My interests include inline skating, biking, downhill skiing, comedy clubs, movies, plays, and museums. I am looking for a NS, 32-41, who loves to laugh, has a thin to medium build and no dependents, likes to downhill ski, and travels well. #6681#

Looking for a fun, beautiful woman (18-39) to show me around the town and have a really wild time. ☎6689₺

God's gift to creative, adventurous, caring, alluring, honest, totally available, challenging, and individualize I'm trim, SWM, 36. ☎6701₺ nd individualized women.

'Tis the season . . . for warm fires, good conversation, romantic evenings. SWPM, SWPM, 30, 5'7", 148 lbs., attractive.

Hoping to meet a caring, fun SF for friendship and hopefully more.

□6649₺ DWM, 35, professional, financially secure, physically fit. Enjoys fall, outdoors, and hockey. Looking for SWF, 24–34, for friendship, maybe more. ₹6706≰5

Women Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL (900) 370-2072

18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min. ISO someone who wants to spend time together. I like to share. Do you have a good sense of humor, enjoy traveling and boating? Are you not allergic to animals? Call me. \$\pi\6670\pi\25\$

Men Seeking Men

Energetic, healthy, GWM, youthful 60, ISO five-star (job, car, HIV-, H/WP, sincere) GM under 50 for possible LTR.

GWPM, 29, 6', 160 lbs., educated, good-looking, masculine looking for partner to enjoy life, boating, conversation, traveling, and golf. Interested in 25–35, masculine, with similar interests. \$\pi6669\pi\$

PERSONAL CALL (900) 370–2072 18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.

Friendships

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 370–2072 18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min. AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE— Informal group starting for signers of all backgrounds and skill levels to learn, practice, and have fun! E-mail: gleaner@ surfree.com or call/write. \$\pi6623 \infty\$

General Personals

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; E-mail: penny@aaobserver. com (include address and phone number).

Looking to meet new people? Involve yourself in the community? The Ann Arbor Jaycees, a leadership training organization for adults ages 21–39, offers you the opportunity to gain skills while impacting your community. Come see us at our monthly meetings every first Thursday, 7:30 p.m., at WCC, Morris J. Lawrence Building, Rm. 105. Call 913–9629 or visit

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Send us the information:

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- · Your name, address, and daytime phone
- Payment (check, money order, or Visa/MasterCard accepted)

he first 20 words are FREE

For singles who use the Personal Call voice mail system, additional words are just \$1 each. Ads which indicate a preference for letters, or those under the "General" heading, cost \$1.25 per word for the entire ad.

Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769-3175, ext. 324

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads

Employment

FEMALE CAREGIVER WANTED Household tasks, meal preparation, no heavy lifting. Evening & weekend hours. References. Interview. Competitive pay. (734) 487–5661. 1–10 PM.

The Ann Arbor Film Festival is seeking veek nightly process of pre-screening film entries, beginning mid-January. Per-sons knowledgable about independent and experimental film should call the festival office, 995-5356 or E-mail vicki@

MEDICAL STAFF

Receptionists and medical assistants required for Ann Arbor physician's office. Candidates should have good social and telephone skills and be familiar with computer data entry. Billing experience pre-ferred, but not essential. Full- and part-time positions. Excellent salary plus ben-efits. Davina: (734) 668–1833.

For Sale

IS YOUR CITY WATER TOXIC? Does it bother you? Call Rob for a clean solution, 332–9047. Since 1995.

WAVERUNNER III

1995 Yamaha with trailer. Variable pitch impeller, performance intake, under 250 hrs.' use, \$3,000 or take over payments \$147/month for 18 months. 482–0163.

REUSABLE GIFT WRAP

Mrs. Claus' Gift Bags. Right for the envi-ronment; good for every gift; perfect for families. Six sizes of infinitely recyclable gift bags in a variety of beautiful fabrics. Available at Arbor Farms, People's Food Coop, and Downtown Home and Garden.

Beautiful Christmas Notecards

Photographed stained-glass windows of First Presbyterian Church. Supports teen mission trip to Israel. Packages of 25 for \$20. Call Mark at 662–4466 or Cyndy at 668–7325.

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the January

INTRADA

Professional woodwind quintet for weddings, receptions, parties, etc. Classical to popular music. (734) 994–5457.

* COMEDY & MAGIC *

Jim Fitzsimmons
Magic that "Fitz" your event! 461–7469.

LA CORDA ENSEMBLE
Distinctive string music for a touch of elegance at your wedding, reception, or any festive occasion. String duo, trio, and quartet. Call (734) 459–5296, or visit our vebsite at www.lacorda.com.

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute and Harp Duo also available. Call Laurel at 663–9292.

* HAMMER DULCIMER *

Weddings, any occasion. Beautifully arranged, lively, tasteful, unique. Recording artist Jane Chevalier (734) 665–2357

Ann Arbor Federation of Musicians-Your best source for live music. Free referrals or list of professional musicians and groups. 668–8041.

LIZARD LADY'S REPTILES

Friendly reptiles for visits to birthdays, classrooms, and preschools. Ten "smash" years in San Francisco. Teress Killeen, 1–800–484–8209, ext. 2448.

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Accordion & Violin Klezmer Duo. Jewish, Yiddish, and Israeli Music. (734)

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UM graduates with 20 years' experience CD "Serenity" available Rochelle 475.1660 or Nancy 994.5457



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Classical/Flamenco Guitar—Romantic or energetic music for your event. (734)

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Rapsodia Ensemble provides exquisite string music for all special events. Reasonable rates. (734) 747–8106.

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Available for your holiday events. \$250. Call Bill Boggs, 482-8880 ext. 446.

* HAVE HARP * WILL TRAVEL * Call Rochelle, (734) 475–1660.

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The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE For business or travel Rapid, all levels. 485–3842

MUSIC LESSONS voice/piano/flute. Flexible scheduling, reasonable rates. Discounts. Master's degree. Experienced. Call Debbie, (734) 485–8590.

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★ SPANISH TUTOR ★ Native speaker. \$18/hr. 741-4943. PIANO LESSONS

ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS
Prof. musician on Steinway upright in westside home. U-M School of Music grad.
Reasonable fee and flexible arrangements. Marian Stolar, 761-7384.

Voice Lessons for Non-Singers and Singers—Experienced teacher, personal expression focus, group and individual lessons. Kathleen Moore, 668–8146.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACH-ERS GUILD for referrals to qualified,

professional piano teachers.

All levels and ages, 665–5346.

Doula Skills Training and Certification through the Holistic Midwifery Institute. Weekend intensive 12/4–12/6, \$175. Information, call Patty Brennan, (734)

★ LEARN THE FIDDLE ★ Celtic, American, French Canadian. Beginners and up. (734) 662–0879. Pam.

"A GATHERING IN SPIRIT" with Brenda Morgan, Ph.D., a Westerner blessed with *Inner Enlightenment/No Mind Within*. A day-long spiritual intensive for those wishing to deepen their openness to God. Only a sincere interest in opening to Spirit is necessary; the particular religious structure you may ticular religious structure you may choose/have chosen should not conflict with the day's nonthreatening activities. December 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$85. Call Susan Fancy at 665–0536.

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Learn or practice ASL while making friends and having fun. Beginners welcome, experts needed! Free, casual group. gleaner@surfree.com or (734) 547–9442.

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Give the gift that lasts a lifetime. Special-izing in the fundamentals of violin, piano. bass, viola, cello. Winter recital will be held Dec. 4 & 5. 213-8442.

* PIANO LESSONS *

MM New England Conservatory, Boston College teaching background. Reasonable fee/all levels. 327–0977.

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Learn preparation, painting, color selec-tion, and faux finishing in your home. Get a professional job at a do-it-yourself price. Fun, affordable. You'll love the results. Contact Faux Tutors, (734) 971–3485.

Overnight Meditation Course, Fri. Dec. 4, 7 p.m. to Sat. Dec. 5, 4 p.m., \$160. Includes instruction (work with postures, the breath, concentration, and everyday mind-fulness). Annual Year End Service: Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind. An occa-sion to step back from worldly involvements and take stock of one's life. Dec. 31, 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. Also New Year's Day Service, 10 a.m. Jan. 1. Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard (at Wells). (734) 761–6520.

* THE URANTIA BOOK *

Would you like to read this book of spiritual wisdom about the universe with others? For study group information: 665-



CLASSIFIEDS



YOURIST POTTERY DESIGN Handmade Pottery • Wheels • Tools • Small Group Lessons. Open Tuesday—

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Meditation for stress management and personal enrichment. Individual or group sessions. *Inroads Meditation Instruction*, Sandra Finkel. (734) 769–0053.

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Learn to provide support for women dur-ing labor and birth. Earn income for your-self and your family. Appropriate for as-piring midwives, massage therapists, nurses, mothers, and others. Training workop to be held in Ann Arbor on January Assistants and Childbirth Educators. Call Janice Forman at (734) 669–0484.

PARLEZ-VOUS FRANÇAIS? lutoring all levels. Interested, call (734) 47–9285.

Services

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★ ofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc TRC HAULING, 665–6895

Personalized Computer Tutoring AT YOUR SITE Windows • DOS • Mac/OS Call Dan, (734) 913-9554.

FREE INTRO TO ASTROLOGY Beginner's guide to understanding astrology. Send SASE with 52¢ postage to: Flashing 12's, Box 12010, Denver, CO 80212 or E-mail: lyndaray@earthlink.net

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Need computer help? We come to you!

Hardware/Software Selection, Setup Orientation, Troubleshooting Internet, E-mail, and Webpage Setup Network, Backup, Data Protection Strategies

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GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP Contact Robert Dargel, MSW, ACSW, at (734) 975–1880. Insurance okay.

Adult ADD Specialist

Assessments, psychotherapy, coaching, consulting. Cindy Glovinsky, ACSW. (734) 480–7666.

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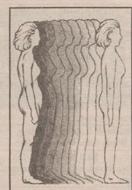
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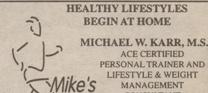
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December 1998

Volume 6 Number 7

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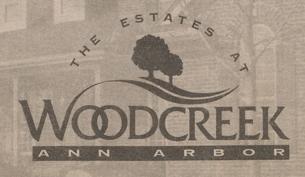
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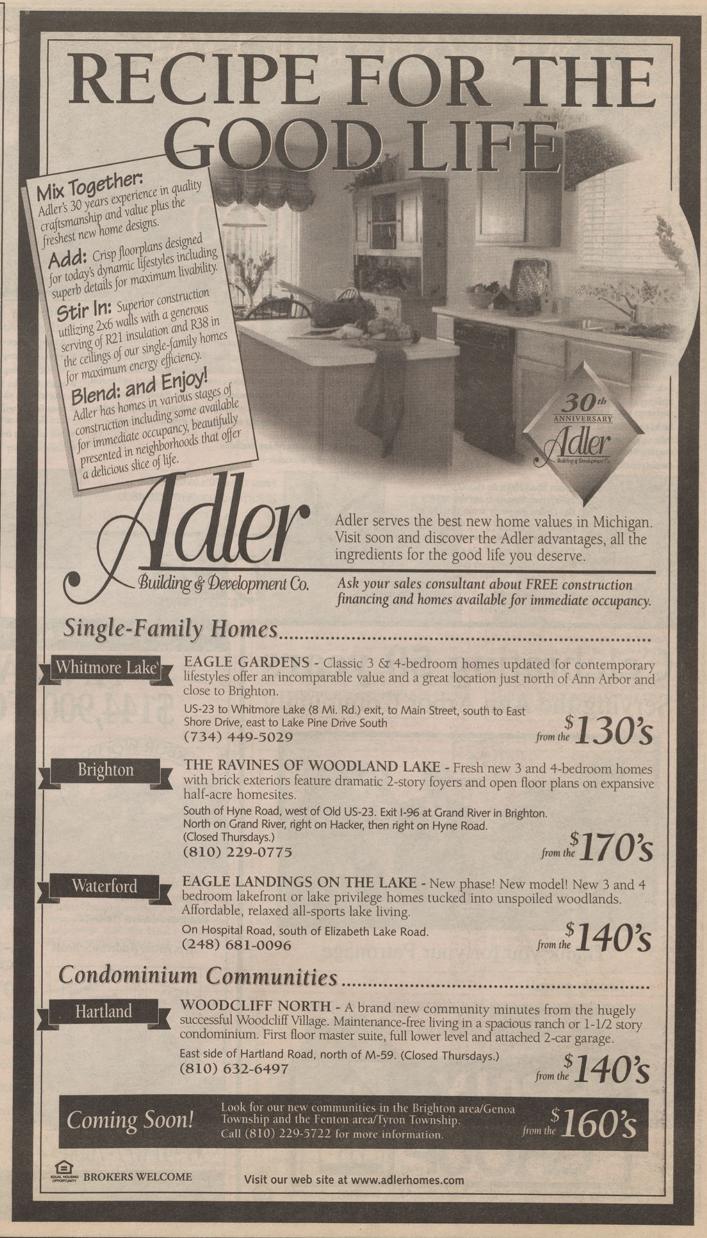
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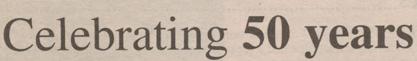
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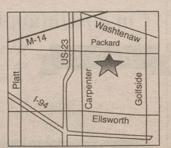
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THREE-BEDROOM, 2-bath condo in downtown Ann Arbor location. Walk to campus, next door to nursing school. Prime location with great rental potential. \$110,000. SUZANNE BETZ 973–6994 or 662–8600. (KI–86238)



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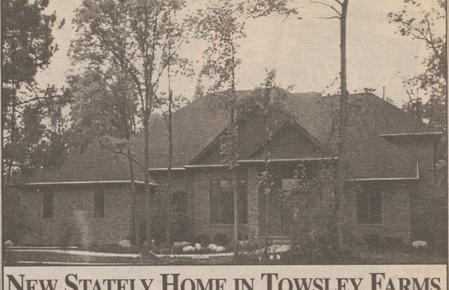


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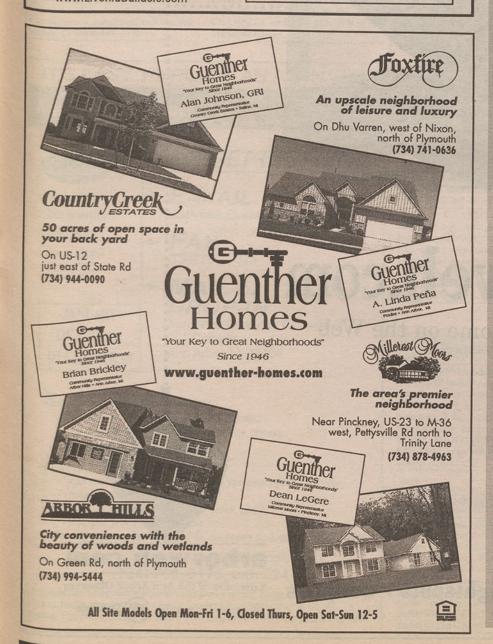
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ANN ARBOR

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\$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | \$130,700 | House 3530 Cloverian Palisades | \$159,900 | 00 | 4 | 3673 Oak | 3719 Helen | \$174,000 | Condo/Co-op New construction 9 Rockla \$68,000 This map displays residential sales in the public records. It is believed to be accurate but is not guaranteed 1924 Orchardvi \$310,000 or warranted. 4211 Crystal Creek \$189,255 2201 Woodvie \$329,900 4625 E Sawgras \$365,606

October home sales leveled off at the 1996 benchmark. The month's 189 sales were one-third below 1997's boomlet, but virtually even with sales in October 1996. New construction, at fifty-six sales, matched 1996 on the nose.

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Off Map 7280 Bethel Hills \$293,000

An enormous amount of vacant land is being converted to homesites. A very high-end residential development, Walnut Ridge, is coming to Scio Township on 134 acres edging the north side of M-14 between Miller and Maple roads. Mount

Clemens developer Richard Ives originally envisioned 135 homesites on the vacant parcel; after negotiations with the township, he cut the total to 108. Ives says 40 percent of the land, about fifty acres, will be dedicated to open space. He describes his plans as "upscale but rural," with subdued lighting, extensive landscaping, and no curbs or gutters. Ives projects floor plans of at least 3,200 square feet with prices starting at \$450,000.

1817 Pra \$426,795

\$233,900

\$359,858

5634 Pebble Ridge \$212,000

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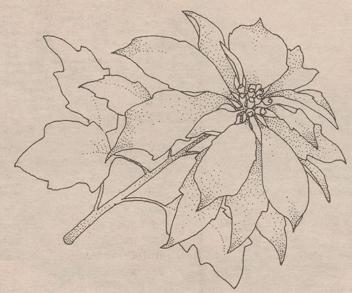
buyers for such expensive homes: in 1997 fifty-three homes sold for \$450,000 or more, both resales and new construction. But Ives's timeline to build out all 108 lots within three years is clearly ambitious—he'd have to capture two-thirds of the high-end market to meet it. Ives is partnering with Bloomfield Hills builder Don Bosco; he says he is also negotiating with local builders but has not yet concluded any agreements.

4026 Lark \$199,000

Down M-14 at Newport Road, the Riverwood development is reshaping forty-three acres inside the city. Builder's agent Tammy Johnson says that its seventy-seven homes will start "in the 220,000s" for floor plans starting at 1,525 square feet—in comparison with Walnut Ridge's, half the house and half the price. Twenty acres of open space will include more than five acres dedicated to the city park system. Plans are that a nature area will be combined with Newport Creek's parkland and eventually knit the two neighborhoods together.

-Kevin Duke

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE









Ann Arbor Ballet Theater brings its annual performance of The Nutcracker, Tchaikovsky's famous Christmas fantasy ballet, to the Power Center, Dec. 18–20.

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 89 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 89.

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Mary Jane Lamond (Gaelic), Dec. 1
- Michael Cooney (English folk), Dec. 4
- The Ethnic Connection (klezmer), Dec. 6
- Balfa Toujours (Cajun), Dec. 6
- San Slomovits (Yiddish & Hebrew), Dec. 10
- "Crossroads Ceili" (Celtic song & dance), Dec. 30

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Boom Town* (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 2–6, 9–13, & 16–19
- The Harlem Nutcracker (Donald Byrd/ The Group), Dec. 2–6
- Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 3–6
- *Volpone* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 3–6
- Innocent Thoughts (Performance Network), Dec. 3–6 & 10–13
- The Nutcracker (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 5 & 6
- The Snow Queen (Ann Arbor Civic Theater), Dec. 10-13 & 17-20
- A Tuna Christmas (P.T.D. Productions), Dec. 10–13 & 17–19
- Cassandra (U-M Residential College), Dec. 10
- Amahl and the Night Visitors (St. Francis of Assisi Church), Dec. 11 & 12
- The Nutcracker (Dance Arts Performing Ensemble), Dec. 12 & 13
- Brave New World Revisited, Revisited (U-M Theater Department/Performance Network), Dec. 17–20
- The Nutcracker (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 18–20

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Arlo Guthrie (folk singer-songwriter), Dec. 2 & 3
- Derek Trucks Band (blues-rock), Dec. 3
- The Nields (folk-rock), Dec. 5
- Mighty Joe Young (blues), Dec. 5
- The Bobs (a cappella), Dec. 9
- Francois Houle (jazz), Dec. 10
- Billy Bragg & the Blokes (folk-rock), Dec. 10
- Susan Werner (pop-folk singer-songwriter), Dec. 11
- Candlebox (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 11
- Michael Hill's Blues Mob, Dec. 11
- Dee Carstensen (pop-folk singer-songwriter), Dec. 12
- Skeeter Brandon (blues), Dec. 12
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 13
- "Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash" with Bolcom & Morris and pianists James Dapogny, Bob Seeley, Mike Montgomery, and Waleed Howrani, Dec. 13
- John E. Lawrence (jazz), Dec. 17
- Root Doctor (blues), Dec. 18
- The Kinsey Report (blues), Dec. 19
- George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown (blues & rockabilly), Dec. 27
- James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band and Susan Chastain (jazz), Dec. 31

Comedy & Performance Art

- · Comic Jeff Shaw, Dec. 3-5
- Comic Jim McLean, Dec. 10-12
- Live broadcast of "Whad'Ya Know" public radio show, Dec. 12
- Comic Chris Zito, Dec. 17-19
- Comic John Heffron, Dec. 26
- Comic Jackie Flynn, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- St. Nicholas Light Display at Domino's Farms, nightly
- Holiday bazaars, fairs, & sales, Dec. 3–6, 10 & 12
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 4–7
- "A Holiday Evening in Saline," Dec. 4
- Senior Ball & Holiday Celebration, Dec. 4
- Chelsea Festival of Lights, Dec. 4-6
- "Festive Friday Holiday Nights" on Main Street, Dec. 4, 11, & 18
- Concordia College Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 4–6
- Dexter's Victorian Christmas, Dec. 5 & 12
- Waterloo Farm Museum Victorian Christmas, Dec. 5 & 6
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 6
- Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti, Dec. 6
- U-M Conger Alumnae Goup "Home for the Holidays" home tour, Dec. 10
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- EMU Music Department "Ships Ahoy" children's concert, Dec. 4
- "Ghost of the River House" (EMU Theater of the Young), Dec. 4 & 5
- U-M Exhibit Museum "Deck the Halls with Dinosaurs," Dec. 5
- Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 6
- Michael Cooney children's concert, Dec. 6
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 10–12
- Peter Pan (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 11–13
- Babes in Toyland (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 13
- "Sing-Along with Santa," Dec. 13

Miscellaneous

- Kiwanis Christmas Sale, Dec. 4 & 5
- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 19

Lectures & Readings

- Poet Michael Salinger, Dec. 1
- Novelist Eileen Pollack, Dec. 1
- Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist John Burns, Dec. 1
- Poet & playwright Derek Walcott, Dec. 2
- Cartoonist Dan Piraro, Dec. 3
- Sports columnist & radio personality Mitch Albom, Dec. 4
- Architect Daniel Libeskind, Dec. 7
- · Fiction writer June Spence, Dec. 7
- Novelist Laura Kasischke, Dec. 11

Classical & Religious Music

- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 5
- · Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 5
- Pianist Anton Nel, Dec. 5
- Galliard Brass Ensemble, Dec. 5
- University Musical Society "Messiah," Dec. 5 & 6
- EMU Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 6
- U-M Michigan Chamber Players, Dec. 6
- U-M Gospel Chorale, Dec. 6
- Arianna String Quartet, Dec. 6
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 12
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 13
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 13
- St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 13
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 13
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 19
- Michigan Chamber Brass, Dec. 19
- Community "Messiah" Sing, Dec. 20First Presbyterian Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- First Baptist Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24

Films

• II-M "Orson Welles Weekend." Dec. 4-6

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

 "Santa's Got a Brand New Bag" workshop on how to turn recycled wood scraps into racks for drying reusable baggies, Dec. 8



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